



臺北醫學大學附設醫院
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Launching the Spiritual Care Training Project for Medical Professionals in Taiwan

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以病家為尊 以同仁為重 以北醫為榮

Background

- Spiritual care is one of the essential keys to elevate the quality of holistic care^{1,2}.
- However, spiritual care in Taiwan often applies in Christian hospitals but less in other hospitals³.
- This study reported the training results of the 安寧靈性關懷人員培訓與民間宣導推廣計畫^{4,5} which was supported by the Health Promotion Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare Taiwan from 2017 to 2019.

A 28-hour NATIONAL-LEVEL training project⁴ in spiritual care within basic and advanced-level course (14 hours each) has been launched for medical professionals in Taiwan since 2017.

Basic-level course (14 hours)

- Introduction (6hrs)
 - Spiritual distress, Religions and spirituality
 - Competence of spiritual counselling
 - Model of spiritual care for patients in terminal stage and hospice care
- Team work (3hrs)
 - Roles and the models of teamwork
 - Team recourse management
- Multicultural spiritual care and ethics (2hrs)
- Self-awareness and self-growth (3hrs)
 - Self-awareness and growth
 - Stress and self-care

Advance-level course (14 hours)

- Spiritual assessment and interventions (10hrs)
 - Assessment and charting
 - Plan and treatment (practice)
 - Assessing the family structures and functions & Spiritual care counselling
 - Resource of Spiritual care
- Spiritual care in different religions (4hrs)
 - Philosophy of death, religious rituals and ceremonies in Christianity, Catholicism, Buddhism, Daoism

Objectives

- It aimed to **enhance the spiritual care competence of medical professionals** in Taiwan⁴,
- and also, subsequently, to **protect and promote** patient's dignity and spirituality in healthcare¹.

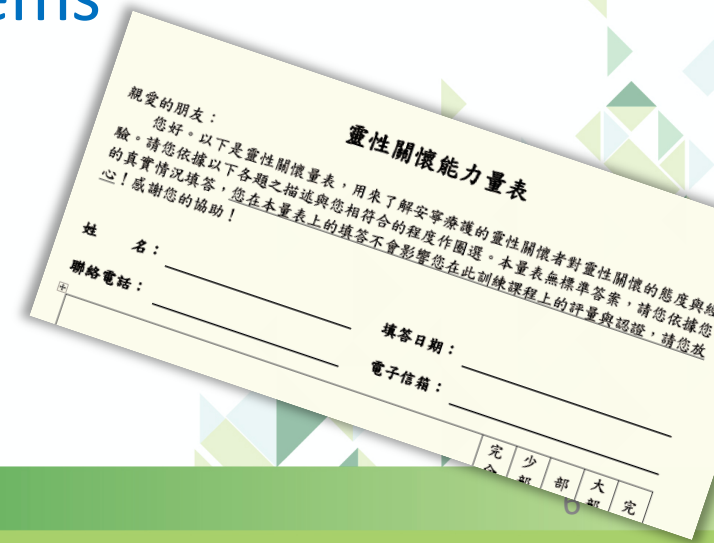
Methods

- Population: Front-line medical professionals from the selected hospitals in Taiwan³.
- **Process:** Pre-posttest evaluations were taken using the **Spiritual Care Competence Scale (SCCS)**⁶
- The learning outcomes were analyzed through paired *t*-test and Hattie's effect size⁷ techniques.

Instrument

Spiritual Care Competence Scale (SCCS)⁶ (Chen et al., 2017)

- 16 items, 3 domains:
 - 1) Spiritual care knowledge (SCK): 3 items
 - 2) Spiritual care self-awareness (SCA): 6 items
 - 3) Spiritual care practice (SCP): 7 items
- Developed in 2016, 5-point Likert scale



Results



- An effective sample size of 98 medical professionals (pre-post test completed)
- The **pre-posttest results** of the learning effectiveness reported
 - 1) Significant with the statistical reports of MD +6.92, SE 1.04, [$F(1,194) = 29.51, p = .00$]
 - 2) Hattie's effect size⁷ = .78. (near to Large Effect .80)
- Overall, **an exceeding effect of learning** were achieved in three dimensions of spiritual care competence with Hattie's effect size :
 - 1) Spiritual care knowledge (SCK) = .79 (near to Large Effect)
 - 2) Spiritual care self-awareness (SCA) = .57 (Medium effect)
 - 3) Spiritual care practice (SCP) = .80 (Large effect)

Conclusion

- The **first evidence-based empirical report** promisingly indicated the training for medical professionals in Taiwan has **successfully enhanced the competence of spiritual care**.
- This study has opened widely cross-disciplinary **conversations and studies** between the medical and spiritual care in Taiwan^{1,2,3,4,5,8,9}.

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Thank you for listening!

Any comment and feedback?