

The current status of the recovery rehabilitation ward in Hospital A ～Social worker support related to hospital discharge～

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Abstract

Medical social workers (MSWs) are involved in the preparations for hospital discharge and contribute to the discharge (home return) rate that is established in the hospital's criteria. In this study, we report on the current discharge status based on data for patients admitted to and discharged from the recovery rehabilitation ward (RR ward) in Hospital A. Our analysis of the data indicated that most returned home. Over the 3-year period, approximately 60 to 80% of the hospitalized patients returned home after discharge. Our investigation of the use of social resources by discharged patients indicated that more patients used services than did not, with approximately 60% using services. Our investigation of the social resources utilized by those discharged patients who used services indicated that approximately half used Long-Term Care Insurance. Our investigation of the specific services utilized by those discharged patients who used Long-Term Care Insurance indicated that the highest number of patients used it for outpatient services such as day services and day care. Patients who went to institutions after discharge went to the following types of institutions: institutions associated with the Long-Term Care Insurance program such as geriatric rehabilitation and medical services facilities for the aged, special nursing homes for the aged, fee-based care homes, nursing care centers, elderly housing with supportive home-care services, short residency without regard to facility criteria, and group homes; and institutions associated with welfare services for persons with disabilities such as support for residential care and group homes. Tottori J. Clin. Res. 7(2), 145-154, 2016

Key Words: medical social workers (MSWs), patient's post-discharge destinations, use of social resources by discharged patients, Long-Term Care Insurance program, return home rate

1. Introduction

The recovery rehabilitation ward (RR ward) of Hospital A was opened in 2012, and it entered its 4th year of operation in 2015. Medical social workers (MSWs) are involved in the preparations for hospital discharge and contribute to the discharge (home return) rate that is established in the hospital's criteria. In this study, we report on the current discharge status based on data for patients admitted to and discharged from the RR ward in Hospital A since 2012.

2. Current status

We converted information on patients admitted to the RR ward since June 2012 to data. Based on the data, we determined that the number of hospitalizations in the RR ward was 145 patients in 2012, 171 patients in 2013 and 132 patients in 2014.

Our analysis of the data by illness indicated that the most common disease was cerebrovascular disease, followed by disuse atrophy etc. The number of patients with musculoskeletal diseases remained constant (Table 1, Fig. 1).

Table 1. The number of patients by disease

No. of patients	2012	2013	2014	Total
Cerebrovascular disease	89	100	88	277
Musculoskeletal disease	26	28	24	78
Disuse atrophy	30	43	93	93
Total	145	171	132	448