Application of Concept Mapping to Diabetes Primary Care Planning

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ABSTRACT

The concept mapping has been used in various health issues. However, there was still no application to planning of diabetes care model in primary care setting. The aim of this study was to generate and prioritize diabetes care activities which were continuous, integrated, holistic and involved community participation. The five steps were performed by all stakeholders including health care provider, policy maker, diabetes patient, care giver, health care volunteer and community representative. Firstly, the focus statement was identified as "Identify diabetes care activities which were continuous, integrated, holistic and involved community participation". Secondly, five-point Likert's scale was used for rating each activity relative to others in terms of importance and feasibility of each activity. Thirdly, all stakeholders generated, grouped, labeled and prioritized the activities to be the data input. Fourthly, the data were analyzed by multidimensional scaling and hierarchical cluster analysis. Finally, all activities were presented as concept maps. The fifty-four diabetes care activities were generated and grouped into five concepts. They were as follows: 1) providing comprehensive diabetic knowledge; 2) promoting health behavior; 3) setting diabetes management; 4) setting up diabetes care training volunteer (DCTV) and 5) classifying diabetes patient by disease severity, which had average importance values of 4.03, 3.76, 3.73, 3.71 and 3.48, respectively. These activities were prioritized as of relative importance and feasibility with limited barriers in decision- making process. The concept mapping technique was more advantageous in showing the ideas in pictorial form by reliable statistic, however, it could not stimulate creative thinking of stakeholders.

Key words: Concept mapping, Diabetes care planning, Primary care

INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a major chronic disease with a prevalence that is rapidly growing worldwide especially in developing countries (King et al., 1998;