

CHRONIC LUNG DISEASES: THE ROLE OF NURSING IN PATIENT CARE

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Abstract: Chronic lung diseases (CLDs) such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, and interstitial lung diseases are a significant global health concern. Nurses play a crucial role in managing these conditions by providing patient-centered care, health education, and psychosocial support. This article reviews the responsibilities and interventions of nurses in CLD care and highlights evidence-based practices for improving patient outcomes.

Introduction

Chronic lung diseases are characterized by persistent respiratory symptoms and airflow limitations. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that COPD and asthma affect millions globally, with a rising prevalence due to environmental and lifestyle factors. Nursing care in CLDs focuses on symptom management, education, and long-term support.

Nursing Responsibilities in Chronic Lung Diseases

1. Assessment and Monitoring:

- Conducting comprehensive respiratory assessments, including spirometry and symptom scoring.
- Monitoring vital signs and oxygen saturation levels.
- Identifying early signs of exacerbations.

2. Patient Education:

- Teaching patients about medication adherence, inhaler techniques, and the importance of smoking cessation.

- Educating patients about self-management strategies, including recognizing exacerbation triggers and implementing action plans.

3. **Psychosocial Support:**

- Providing emotional support to patients and families coping with chronic conditions.

- Encouraging participation in support groups or pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

4. **Coordination of Care:**

- Collaborating with interdisciplinary teams to optimize treatment plans.

- Referring patients to specialists when needed, such as pulmonologists or respiratory therapists.

5. **Rehabilitation and Palliative Care:**

- Facilitating pulmonary rehabilitation exercises.
- Offering palliative care for advanced CLD cases to improve quality of life.

Evidence-Based Interventions

- **Smoking Cessation Programs:** Research shows that counseling and nicotine replacement therapies significantly reduce disease progression in smokers with CLD.

- **Pulmonary Rehabilitation:** Regular physical activity combined with breathing exercises improves lung function and reduces symptoms.

- **Telehealth Monitoring:** Remote patient monitoring helps detect early signs of exacerbations, reducing hospital admissions.

Conclusion

Nurses are pivotal in the management of chronic lung diseases. Through education, support, and comprehensive care, they enhance patient outcomes and

improve quality of life. Future research should focus on integrating advanced technologies into nursing care to address the growing burden of CLDs.

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