



Neonatal Nurse Education Program in Haiti

First Education Session, October 2010



Classroom Instruction at the Haitian Nurses Association

Introduction

In response to the devastating earthquake of January 2010, Rose Charities Canada sent pediatric doctors and specialist nurses to St. Marc, Gonaïves, and Port-au-Prince. A total of seventeen medics went to Haiti between January 15th 2010 and February 2nd 2011. The work that was undertaken during this period was varied. It included assistance in the pediatric wards of the hospitals, instruction of the nursing students, and assistance in the cholera treatment centres. Shortly after the arrival of the first doctors and nurses, the need to support the education of Haitian nurses was identified. This was explored with the Haitian nurses, the Haitian National Nurses Association, two nursing schools and the Director of Nursing from the Ministry of Health. Two needs were identified: Firstly, the loss of students and the extent of the damage to the State Nursing School building (L'École Nationale des Infirmières de Port-au-Prince) became evident so Rose Charities decided it would assist the with the rebuilding of this nurses training program. Secondly, Rose Charities agreed to support continuing education for Haitian graduate nurses.

Rose Charities sent nurse educators from Vancouver, Canada to teach a seminar on neonatal care and resuscitation. In addition Rose Charities sent a 40 foot container packed with equipment and supplies for the General Hospital and the nursing school teaching laboratory in Port-au-Prince. Pediatric nursing textbooks for the school were also included.

This is a report on what was undertaken during this first Continuing Education Seminar in October 2010.

The Neonatal Program:

The Nurse Educators:

Karen Schafer RN, BSN, (Canada)

Bernie Koppe RN, (Canada)

Fernande Charles, RN (U.S.A.)

Course Outline:

For each nurse there was:

Two days of classroom education

Two days of clinical teaching

Classroom Education

October 11th and 12th

From 0900-1600 hrs

On each day 23 nurses attended

Clinical teaching at General Hospital / L'Hôpital Universite d'État d'Haiti (HUEH)

October 13th and 14th

From 0800-1300 hrs

5 Nursing Professors and 6 HUEH nurses attended

Clinical teaching at Haitian Community Hospital / L'Hôpital de la Communauté Haitienne (HCH)

October 18th and 19th

From 0800-1300 hrs

6 HCH nurses attended

Clinical teaching at Adventist Hospital / L'Hôpital Adventiste d'Haiti

October 20th and 21st

From 0800-1300 hrs

7 Adventist nurses and 3 Adventist university students attended



A demonstration of resuscitation by Karen Schafer and Fernade Charles at the Haitian Community Hospital.

Classroom content covered:

- Basic neonatal assessment
- Thermoregulation using skin-to-skin methods and other heating devices
- Specific vulnerabilities of the premature infant and how it impacts practice
- Medication administration with a focus on neonatal drugs, doses and how to calculate
- I.V. nutrition and fluid calculation
- Enteral nutrition for the neonate/premature infant
- Breastfeeding and maintaining milk supply
- Hyperbilirubinemia and phototherapy

Clinical content covered:

- Assessment
- Review of infants currently in care and application of classroom content related to infant
- Assessment
- Use of E.C.G. and O2 saturation monitors
- Developmental care
- Infection control practices
- Bag mask ventilation
- Phototherapy
- Case studies
- Medication calculation
- Fluid and feed calculation

Participants from the General Hospital/L'Hôpital Universite d'État d'Haiti (HUEH)

Marie Monette Dejan
Andre Rose Marie Fequiere

HEUH clinical days only:

Margalie Belizaire
Marie Geralde Phillipe
Mireille Souriac
Marie Andree Vilton

Participants from the Haitian Community Hospital/L'Hôpital de la Communauté Haitienne (HCH)

Marie Alaine Caseneuve
Marie Florence Etienne
Marie Nicole Gautier
Saigne Lotin
Marie Gyse Lavange
Marie Florence Pierre
Mercy Cadette

Participants from the Adventist Hospital / L'Hôpital Adventiste d'Haiti

Farah Martine Adrien
Marie Camicie Cazimir
Nathalie Deslauriers
Misere Myrlande
Yvrose D. Morency
JB Yanique Poustin
Marc Jumisse
Joinice Brizil
Adina Henry

State School of Nursing Professors:

Edette Oscar Benoit - Gonaiives
Marie Ivanne Durosier - Cap Haitian
Judith Francois - Jeremie
Natacha Fresnel - Port-au-Prince
Christine Pierre Louis - Port-au-Prince

Evaluation

All participants and attendees were asked to complete a self assessment before the teaching, and again after the teaching. In summary, all participants felt that their confidence level as well as their skill level had improved with the knowledge gained from the teaching. They spoke positively about the teaching especially the neonatal resuscitation teaching. Many expressed the desire to have their own textbooks and all expressed the desire to continue learning.

Many of the nurses felt they now had some tools to assist them in questioning treatments ordered e.g. if they felt the drug dosage was too high or if perhaps oxygen treatment was no longer required.

Plan for 2011

Rose Charities Canada plans to return to Port-au-Prince to teach and facilitate two further Neonatal Nurse Education Programs*, on dates to be decided.

In April 2011, we will be supporting Haitian nurses to teach the classroom content to nurses from 4 hospitals - HEUH, HCH, Adventist Hospital and now with the addition of St. Damien Hospital/ L'Hôpital St. Damien.

We would also like to provide* a full Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) course for those who attended this course. We would also like to provide an NRP instructors course for a core group of nurses from each of the 3 hospitals and the state schools of nursing.

Later in 2011 or early 2012 we would like to return to teach an Acute Care of At-Risk Newborns (ACoRN) course to both pediatricians and nurses from the participating hospitals and the state schools of nursing.

The Longer Term

Our long term goal is to support the basic learning needs that would assist a general nurse to provide basic neonatal care to infants of between 33 weeks and full term gestation.

* subject to the appropriate Haitian Government Ministry of Health approvals.

Rose Charities Canada

Rose Charities Canada is a not-for-profit, non-sectarian, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). It is financially supported by the generous donations of individuals and the Sikh community of Vancouver, without whose support the work undertaken in Haiti would not have been possible. Approximately 98% of donations received go directly to its work and overheads are therefore kept to a minimum.



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