Issues affecting access to palliative care services for older Chinese people in Australia

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Key Words: Health Services, Palliative Care, Culture, Chinese

Research aim:
This paper reports on a review of the literature, in preparation for a larger study, to explore the issues which may influence access to palliative care services for older Chinese patients in Australia.

Results/Conclusion:
The review found that ethnic minority groups face numerous problems due to barriers like cultural differences and language. Even though the giving of 'bad news' is not traditional in Chinese culture, evidence suggests that most people seek honesty in relation to their diagnosis and prognosis. The ill person's home is regarded as the place of choice for care, although there may be reticence about dying at home because of the burden this may cause to others. Medical and traditional care are viewed as complementary; with distinctive roles to play in terms of overall health.

Implications:
The recommendations for community nurses from this review include being culturally responsive in the many aspects of care for which they are responsible when working in the patient's home. Cultural differences will most starkly be evident in the home environment; thus culturally responsive education about particular issues is important. In addition, communication processes need to be respectful of cultural traditions.

Cultural Group(s):
Chinese

Location of study:
Australia

Age group:

Number included in study:
Number of papers included not given

Type of participants:
Literature review

Research approach:

Type of data:
Literature review

Secondary data sources used:
Peer reviewed journal articles

Specific scales or analytical techniques used:

Implications/ Recommendations:

Notes: