

## **Sigma's 30th International Nursing Research Congress**

### **Physical and Emotional Needs of Primary Caregivers of In-Home Oxygen-Dependent Children**

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#### **Purpose:**

To identify the predictors of primary caregivers' need in caring for in-home oxygen-dependent children by examining the association between their levels of caregiver needs. Supplementary oxygen-dependent children are progressively increasing in number over the past few years. The primary caregivers of these oxygen-dependent children face high levels of stress and therefore their needs require investigation. This paper focuses on reporting the physical and emotional needs of primary caregivers of children depending on oxygen therapy at home. Increasing numbers of primary caregivers of oxygen-dependent children experience caregiving need that warrants investigation. To explore the physical and emotional needs and its related factors of primary caregivers of the in-home supplementary oxygen-dependent children.

#### **Methods:**

Beginning to collect care for these home caregivers for in Home oxygen-dependent children during 2010-2011. These in Home oxygen-dependent children include oxygen therapy for  $\geq 6$  hours/day; the children's age ranges from 3 months to 16 years old. This study used cross-sectional design and structured questionnaires. A total of 104 participants were recruited from a medical center in Taipei city, including the Paediatric outpatient and inpatient department, ENT outpatient department, greater Taipei home-care facility and Cheers Children foundation.

#### **Results:**

Among all items, four items of the highest level of need came from the physiological needs of the children. The level of physiological needs was highest among the four subscales and that of psychological needs was second high. Multivariable GEE analysis revealed that all the variables of the primary caregiver were not associated with overall need. However, the oxygen-dependent children's gender, age and total medical cost were able to independently explain the overall need of the caregivers.

#### **Conclusion:**

The need to understand the physiologic needs of the oxygen-dependent children seems to be the priority of these primary caregivers, especially on the aspects regarding disease monitoring, disease management and disease knowledge. Thus, a comprehensive discharge planning model is recommended to decrease the long-term stress and enhance the needs of the primary caregivers.

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#### **Title:**

Physical and Emotional Needs of Primary Caregivers of In-Home Oxygen-Dependent Children

**Keywords:**

need, oxygen-dependent children and primary caregivers

**References:**

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**Abstract Summary:**

The need to understand physiologic needs of oxygen-dependent children seems to be the priority of these primary caregivers, especially on the aspects regarding disease monitoring, disease management and disease knowledge. A comprehensive discharge planning model is recommended to decrease the long-term stress and enhance the needs of the primary caregivers.

**Content Outline:**

**Background:** Supplementary oxygen-dependent children are progressively increasing in number over the past few years. The primary caregivers of these oxygen-dependent children face high levels of stress and therefore their needs require investigation. This paper focuses on reporting the physical and emotional needs of primary caregivers of children depending on oxygen therapy at home.

**Objectives:** To explore the physical and emotional needs and its related factors of primary caregivers of the in-home supplementary oxygen-dependent children.

**Methods:** This study used cross-sectional design and structured questionnaires. A total of 104 participants were recruited from a medical center in Taipei city, including the Paediatric outpatient and inpatient department, ENT outpatient department, greater Taipei home-care facility and Cheers Children foundation.

**Results:** Among all items, four items of the highest level of need came from the physiological needs of the children. The level of physiological needs was highest among the four subscales and that of psychological needs was second high. Multivariable GEE analysis revealed that all the variables of the primary caregiver were not associated with overall need. However, the oxygen-dependent children's gender, age and total medical cost were able to independently explain the overall need of the caregivers.

**Conclusions/Implication for Practice:** The need to understand the physiologic needs of the oxygen-dependent children seems to be the priority of these primary caregivers, especially on the aspects regarding disease monitoring, disease management and disease knowledge. Thus, a comprehensive discharge planning model is recommended to decrease the long-term stress and enhance the needs of the primary caregivers.

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