

Abstract

The presented quantitative diploma thesis deals with the issue of the home mechanical ventilation (HMV) in the Czech Republic. It outlines its history, describes the most common diagnoses of clients using the HMV, and gives an overview of departments of long-term and follow-up intensive care. The thesis summarizes the course of transition from the hospital to homecare and comprehensively describes government allowance available to the families. Finally, institutions which were most commonly named by the queried departments of follow-up intensive care as intermediaries of the HMV are briefly identified.

In the empirical part, the thesis aims to find out, using a questionnaire survey, how the aforementioned issues play out in practice, how the transition to domestic environment takes place, who helps the families, or whether the caregivers use all the financial assistance available to them. The thesis proposes five hypotheses, out of which two met the pre-established criteria.

The first confirmed hypothesis stated that there are organisations which help the patients with the transition to the HMV and that the families are satisfied with the speed and the gradually increasing difficulty of the transition. The second confirmed hypothesis stated that the patients are appropriately educated in basic nursing care and critical situations. In discussion, findings of this research are considered in the context of chosen available works dealing with similar issues in the international field of research.

The thesis had been conceived as a summary of the HMV issues in the Czech Republic and it is intended for health care workers who would like to gain an insight into the field. Furthermore, it can be of help to families who are considering a transfer of a family member dependent on a ventilator into home care. Finally, the findings of this thesis may be used as a foundation for further studies leading to changes in the organisation of the HMV in the Czech Republic.

Key words: home care, home mechanical ventilation, issue of transition, allowance