



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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**Submitting author:** Mr Bill POON

**Post title:** Assistant Social Work Officer, Caritas Medical Centre, KWC

### **The Rehabilitation and Discharge Experience of Senior Patients Receiving Lower Limb Amputation in Hong Kong**

*Poon KP*

*Department of Medical Social Work, Caritas Medical Centre*

#### **Keywords:**

Amputation, Psychosocial needs, Coping

#### **Introduction**

Limb amputation, no matter due to traumatic or non-traumatic circumstances, would induce significant changes in the patients' physical and psychosocial well beings. In Hong Kong, public hospitals operated by the sole statutory authority – The Hospital Authority (HA) dominated the medical and rehab service provision. Despite of HA's continuous efforts to enhance patient care service, it is unfortunately that a comprehensive assessment and intervention model for amputee patients are still lacking, resulting a service gap in practice. The phenomenon may partly attributable to the fact that no previous local study with focus on psychosocial aspect of needs of amputees had ever been conducted. With the population aging trend, it is believed chronic illness that could result in amputation would continue to incline, hence an urgent call to address the knowledge and service gaps were aroused.

#### **Objectives**

a. To understand essence of experience of amputees and their family, with a systemic perspective, within the local context. 1) Explore the needs of amputees and family. 2) Explore their copings toward amputation. 3) Explore the resources of amputee patients that they perceive contributing toward recovery. b. To generate insights for service development toward amputees.

#### **Methodology**

A qualitative approach to study employed to reveal the lived experience of amputees within the local context. 5 lower limb amputee patients living in the community and discharged from HA hospital within 3 years were interviewed for data collection. Conclusions are drawn by (1) Comparing outcomes with correspondence foreign literatures, analysis the similarity and differences. A better understanding to the universal and unique psychosocial needs of amputees in Hong Kong can be extracted. (2) Thematic analysis of the shared experiences. The results are expected contributive to fill the knowledge gap and generate new insights for further service development.

#### **Result**

(1) Social systems around the patient, including family, hospital, peer and community supports as well as wider cultural norms and believes were imposing vast impacts on

patients' psychosocial needs as well as coping toward amputation. (2) Further researches on the common themes extracted from this exploratory study, including (i) Adjustment is both an intra and interpersonal interaction process, (ii) Hope to cope is co-constructed by self and important ones (ii) Life-meaning can be reframed will certainly enrich future psychosocial service planning for amputee patients.