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BOOK REVIEW ARTICLE

DENGUE: MANUAL DE ENFERMAGEM DENGUE FEVER: HANDBOOK OF NURSING MANUAL DE ENFERMERÍA

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The book “Dengue fever: handbook of nursing”, 2nd edition, is a publication of the Brazilian Ministry of Health, through the Secretariat of Health Surveillance and the Secretariat of Health Care, launched in the year 2013, with 64 pages, available from www.saude.gov.br

The work is divided into three chapters, which are: the first, which is a brief introduction; the second, which reports on the nursing care for patients with suspicion of dengue fever, involving risk classification, clinical staging and nursing care; the third, which mentions the issue of prevention and control measures against dengue fever, highlighting the importance of social mobilization and education, control of the vector “Integrated and intersectoral actions”, promotion of the insertion of agents to combat endemic diseases into the primary care team, follow-up of cases in primary care, epidemiological surveillance and care shares to patients with suspicion of dengue fever.

The first chapter describes how the handbook was produced, updated, through a review of reports of the general coordination of the National Dengue Fever Control Program, investigations of deaths, the handbook “Dengue fever: Diagnosis and Clinical Management”, documents of the Pan-American Organization and of the World Health Organization. In addition, the handbook brings the importance to prioritize care according to the severity classification, being divided into two segments: presence of alarm and/or shock signals (groups C or D) or

absence of these signals (groups A or B). At the end, it reveals the proposal of the handbook to guide the nursing team.

The second chapter reports on the nursing care for patients with suspicion of dengue fever. In its first topic, Risk Classification, it substantiates the key role of nursing in the care and risk classification; the importance of performing an anamnesis and thorough physical examinations, showing step-by-step how it should be conducted. In its second topic, Clinical Staging, it addresses the importance of the assessment and the first actions towards the patient when he is being served in the unit that he sought for. In the third, Nursing Care, the handbook exposes the flowchart of risk classification and clinical management that should be adopted for patients - adults and children - who belong to the Groups A, B, C and D.

In the third chapter, prevention and control measures, it shows the importance of the nursing professional as an educator agent, especially in Primary Care (PC). In the topic “Social mobilization and education”, it encourages professionals to insist on the mobilization and education actions until the moment in which the community is aware of the problem that the dengue fever has become. In the control of vector “Integrated and intersectoral actions”, it addresses the harmonious work between Community Health Agents (ACS, as per its acronym in Portuguese) and Agents to Combat Endemic Diseases (AE, as per its acronym in Portuguese), being that

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Dengue fever: handbook of nursing.

the nursing professional is the instructor/supervisor of ACS.

In the topic three of the third chapter, it addresses the need for participation of professionals from the health team and from the vector control team in weekly meetings in such a way as to make the work succeed. In the fourth topic, it shows the follow-up of cases in Primary Care. In the fifth, it discusses the importance of qualitative epidemiological surveillance and describes the nursing care in Epidemiological Surveillance. Last of all, the care for patient with suspicion of dengue fever should follow the procedures established in the handbook (laboratory examinations, follow-up card of patients with suspicion of dengue fever, verification of vital signs, checklist: groups A and B).

The reading of this handbook shows the growing concern of the Brazilian Ministry of Health concerning the prioritization of the care for patients with suspicion of dengue fever and updating of the severity classification of dengue fever. Therefore, it shows the importance of the nurse professional, worker who has the first contact with the patient, especially in Primary Care, and its ability to articulate actions that can contribute to the reduction of infestation indexes. Finally, one should highlight that the reading of this handbook becomes essential for the nursing professionals who work in health services within areas of epidemic risk, since it is a guiding tool for dengue fever cases, resulting from research.

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