

Wanted Bureaus to Supply Software and Hardware to Give IV fluids to Patients at Home

OP Kapoor

Day by day more and more day care centres are coming up in Mumbai, so that the patients don't have to get hospitalized and spend more money.

Similarly nursing bureaus, which supply nurses to doctors treating the patients at home, are increasing in numbers.

We all know that in modern days it is very expensive to admit patients in a private hospital. Once the patient is admitted, the hospital bill mounts like a taximeter.

Then what do we do with common fever patients who need observation for 3-6 days before a final diagnosis is reached? Since the patient's relatives become restless, many GPs start giving drugs like antibiotics, which are otherwise not indicated. The best method of diagnosing the cause of common fever is to observe the patient day to day. Usually the relatives get restless because the patient becomes weak within 2-3 days, because he has not eaten nutritious diet or drunk enough liquids. If only this aspect of common fever

could be dealt with, by giving the patient a few bottles of intravenous glucose or glucose saline, most of the families would not mind the General Physician observing the patient till he can confirm the final diagnosis of say enteric fever, or viral hepatitis, or a pleurisy with effusion, etc.

Thus some doctors should set up bureaus to supply software (Nurses or technicians, who can do venepuncture like the ones employed by the pathology laboratories for collecting blood at home) and hardware (in the form of glucose or glucose saline bottles along with IV set and stand). Really speaking there is no office space required for this business.

The main expenses will only be on advertising. The nurse has to stay with the patient for the whole day or whole night. After the drip is started, the family doctor can look after the other patients. In other situations, the family doctor can only ask for the IV set and stand. A few years back, flex pack disposable bottles were introduced for home usage, but somehow did not pick up with GPs. They could each be hung to a nail or a hook in which case no stand is required.

Ex. Hon. Physician, Jaslok Hospital and Bombay Hospital, Mumbai, Ex. Hon. Prof. of Medicine, Grant Medical College and JJ Hospital, Mumbai 400 008.