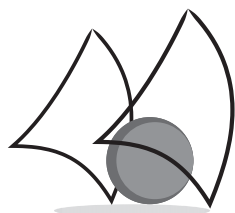


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**MULTIDISCIPLINARY (NURSING, PSYCHOLOGY, PHYSICAL THERAPY, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PHARMACY, ORAL MEDICINE, SOCIAL SERVICES)
Support offered by the support houses to patients undergoing hematopoietic stem cell transplantation**

THAIANE MARTINS DE LIMA* (HOSPITAL DE CLÍNICAS DE PORTO ALEGRE), GABRIELA FUMEGALLI (HOSPITAL DE CLÍNICAS DE PORTO ALEGRE), FABIANE ESPÍNDOLA GOMES (HOSPITAL DE CLÍNICAS DE PORTO ALEGRE), GENEVIEVE LOPES PEDEBÓS (HOSPITAL DE CLÍNICAS DE PORTO ALEGRE) E ESTELA BEATRIZ BEHLING (UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO SUL)

* PRESENTER

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Patients submitted to hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) require care to prevent infections and other complications due to myelosuppression. Moreover, it is important that patients reside next to the health center in which they are being treated. The aim of this study was to describe three support houses located in the city of Porto Alegre-RS, which receive, among others, patients in pre and post-HSCT periods. This is an observational, descriptive and qualitative study (CAAE 51749615200005327). Three support houses in Porto Alegre-RS were visited in December 2015. These houses receive patients from cities in the state of RS and other states after patients are referred from hospitals. Considering the nearest referral hospital for transplantation, the first house is located 5.7 km away and receives up to 11 patients, of all ages, and their companions. The support house receives financial support from a church and donations, has an employee in charge of the local management and does not have volunteers or workshops. Regarding patient transportation, the house does not offer means of transportation, having as options the public or private transportation of which expenses are paid with the patients' own financial resources. The second house, located 5 km away from the same hospital, receives up to 10 patients of all ages, and their companions. It receives financial support from companies, food bank donations and has approximately 70 volunteers from several fields, as well as pedagogical coordinators, social workers and other hired employees. It has arts and craft workshops, computer classes, among other services. As for patients' transportation, it does not have vehicles, but has established a partnership with a private transportation service in order to reduce costs for patients. The third house is located close to the referral hospital, and receives up to 27 children and adolescents and their tutors. This house is maintained with resources from the hospital itself and support from an institute for children with cancer diagnosis and their families, offering workshops, psychological support, among others, in its headquarters in the vicinity of the house, in addition to providing volunteer caregivers. Among the site's own services, is the social service, in addition to other employees of the hospital itself. Despite their limitations, the support houses have suitable conditions to receive the immunocompromised patient; however, differences regarding certain characteristics are evident. The support of other entities, volunteers or donations do not occur in all of them, reducing the supply of other services and activities for these patients. Patients that stay in these houses are usually from remote locations and need help to stay close to the health center where they are being treated. Therefore, although there are improvements to be achieved, the support houses offer important support to patients undergoing HSCT, facilitating access to health services and treatment follow-up.

Keywords: transplantation, Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation