Increasing TMH A&E Health Care Assistants’ understanding of Morse Fall Assessment Scale (MFS) for fall prevention program

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- Fall prevention
- Health Care Assistant
- Morse Fall Assessment Scale
- Staff empowerment

**Introduction**
Patient fall is one of the most prevalent type of incident happened in NTWC hospitals. Fall is closely related to significant morbidity and mortality so MFS is one of useful tool which is currently used by NTWC nurses to identify the fall-prone patients. Health Care Assistants (HCAs) in clinical areas, who are one of the important bedside workforces helping in fall incident prevention, are informed by nurses to pay special attention on those patients with high fall risks but they may not fully understand the rationale behind. Currently, HCAs are lacking of standardize training in fall assessment so this staff empowerment program can fill the gap to increase their knowledge of MFS to enhance patient safety in TMH A&E Department.

**Objectives**
To increase HCAs’ knowledge of MFS.

**Methodology**
Briefing sessions for all TMH A&E & EMW HCAs were arranged in October 2014 & January 2015 to introduce the use of MFS and to promote the importance of fall prevention in hospital. A pocket size cue card with modified MFS was designed for them to have a quick reference during performing MFS to identify patients with high fall risks. A questionnaire was used to collect their levels of understanding in MFS in pre- & post-briefing sessions.

**Result**
100% (n=38) of HCAs in TMH A&E & EMW had attended the briefing sessions and all of them agreed that fall prevention is an important issue and fall incident could be
prevented in ward. In pre-briefing survey, less than 50% of HCAs had not heard about MFS before and they did not know nurses how to perform it for fall prevention. After the briefing session, the participants showed that all of them could understand nurses how to use of MFS to identify fall-prone patients and over 90% of them showed that they could familiar with MFS and had confident to perform modified patient fall assessment by themselves. The study outcome showed an overall increase in HCAs' knowledge and self-efficacy related to fall assessment, and a significant increase in their confidence in using modified MFS to identify patients with high fall risks by themselves, from 28% to 100% in EMW and 11% to 96% in A&E. So this empowerment program to providing standardize training in fall assessment to HCAs would be one of the effective way promoting fall prevention in hospital.