Enhancement of clinical efficiency with faster retrieval of medical consumables from store room for urgent set-up of therapies for ICU patients

Tang SFL(1), Mak MT(1), Kwok WY(1), Cheung SF(1), Ho KM(1)
(1)Intensive Care Unit, Prince of Wales Hospital

Introduction
ICU is a place which uses advanced therapies to support patients’ lives. To set up these therapies, diverse categories of medical consumables are indispensable with some of them difficult to be recognized. A fast retrieval of consumables from the store room significantly affects the set-up time of therapies for ICU patients. However, some nurses in our ICU express that it is sometimes difficult to locate and retrieve certain consumables from the store room as the labels are not eye-catching enough and some frequently-used consumables are not placed on the front racks causing inconvenience in retrieving these consumables. Besides, with our ICU beds located on two floors, some nurses reflect that the inconsistency in the placement of some consumables in respective store room makes them difficult to locate these consumables when they work on another floor. Hence, it is imperative for our ICU to conduct a CQI project to improve and standardize the placement as well as labels of medical consumables so as to facilitate a faster retrieval of consumables from the store room for urgent set-up of therapies for ICU patients.

Objectives
1. To relocate the placement of those emergency and frequently-used consumables to facilitate easy access. 2. To standardize the placement of all consumables on the two floors of ICU. 3. To improve the labelling system to facilitate easier location of consumables.

Methodology
1. A task force was established. 2. A timeline was set for the improvement actions,
briefing, implementation and evaluation work. 3. For the improvement actions, those emergency and frequently-used consumables were moved to the front racks. Some consumables were relocated to achieve consistency of placement on both floors. All labels were replaced with big and eye-catching ones. 4. After implementation of these changes for one month, nurses were invited to fill in questionnaires as evaluation for this project.

**Result**
80 questionnaires were distributed with 65 returned. Results showed that 94% of participants agreed that this project had enabled them to retrieve consumables faster from the store room than before. Hence, it is concluded that this project has enhanced clinical efficiency with faster retrieval of consumables from store room for set-up of therapies for ICU patients.