New Nurse Experience in Acupuncture In-patient service under Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine Pilot Programme (ICWM).

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Introduction
Acupuncture is one of the beneficial treatments used for controlling various cancer related symptoms in palliative care. ICWM programme has been implemented in palliative care mixed-gender ward Tuen Mun Hospital since September 2014. ICWM nurse provides Pre and Post- acupuncture care.

Objectives
1) Ensure patient is physically and psychologically prepared for receiving acupuncture.
2) Facilitate Chinese Medicine Practitioners (CMP) performing safety acupuncture.
3) Reduce any incidents or complaints when patients receive acupuncture.

Methodology
After patient was recruited to ICWM programme, ICWM nurse ensures explanation and education about acupuncture was provided with documentation. The nurse acts as a resource person if patients and relatives have any enquiries. A standardized nursing workflow for acupuncture was used. Before acupuncture, nurse prepare patients' acupuncture schedule to avoid crash with other appointments. The nurse performs pre-acupuncture assessments including patient identification, physical condition, skin inspection, infectious precaution and vital sign monitoring. For environmental preparation, screens were used to provide privacy and facilitate adequate inter-bed space. The nurse was sensitive to patient's gender and chaperon/witness availability. A flexible visiting policy was provided for accompany during
acupuncture. During acupuncture, nurse ensured patients’ acupuncture sites were disinfected. The nurse maintained patient’s optimal temperature by using a blue blanket warmer which was eye-catching for easy searching any dropped needles. A bed cradle was used to avoid intentional pressure on acupuncture needles. A designated assessment form and needle record system was used to reduce risk of injury. All needles were single use to minimize infection risk. After acupuncture, nurse performs post-acupuncture assessments such as vital sign monitoring, observation on significant bleeding and abnormalities of acupuncture sites. For standardized documentation, a designated chop was used. A special container holder was designed to ensure all used needles were disposed properly.

**Result**
Total 101 acupunctures were performed in 4 months. There were 19 patients (M=14, F=5, mean age=60) received acupuncture. The satisfaction score for CM treatment effect was 7.06/10, and comfortable environment was 8.22/10. There was no needle related incident happened. No complaint and adverse effect was recorded. It showed that patients receiving acupuncture in ward were effective, safe and comfortable. The new nurse role in acupuncture will further enhanced.