Outcomes of a 2-day Nurses Empowerment Workshop in Community Nursing Services
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Introduction
In 2013/14, the number of acute and chronic wound cases newly referred to CNS in HKEC was 6,508. The number was increased by 21% when compared with the number in 2008/09. In response to the increasing service demand and high turnover rate of community nurses, a 2-day nurses empowerment workshop was strategically designed to empower 46 frontline community nurses with evidence based wound care knowledge and skills.

Objectives
(1) Promotion of nursing knowledge and skill acquisition. (2) Improvement of service quality. (3) Ensure patient safety.

Methodology
A total of 38 community nurses were recruited into the 2-day empowerment workshop. The theoretical part on day 1 was mainly focus on wound assessment and documentation while wound classification and management was focused on day 2. For skills empowerment, day 1 was focus on application of PUSH tool and SBAR handover with a total of 8 real cases scenarios set for the community nurses. Day 2 workshop was focus on the classification of dressing products. Measurement of participants’ knowledge acquisition was limited to change in scores between pretests and posttests. Average scores increased 19% and 34% on day 1 and day 2 from pretest to posttest scores respectively. Item analysis revealed that test items that were answered incorrectly most often related to the physiology of wound healing and rationale for selected wound treatments.

Result
The 2-day Nurses Empowerment Workshop has been highly successful not only at advancing evidence based wound care knowledge and skills to community nurses but also their independence to formulate appropriate care plans of wound care to patients.
It also leads the improvement of service quality and ensures patient safety. However, the empowerment could be strengthened by a more comprehensive program of evaluation, including periodic evaluation of nurses’ knowledge and skill retention, and the impact of wound care outcomes in community nursing services.