Establishment of workflow facilitated staff in handling subcutaneous infusion and syringe driver

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Introduction
The application of subcutaneous infusion and syringe driver is common in oncology ward. Oncology patients are always suffering with various symptoms (e.g. shortness of breath, nausea, pain, etc.). Through the continuous infusion of different medication mixed with normal saline in designated rate, patient symptom can be minimized to promote comfort. Despite the presence of in house guideline, many newcomers expressed difficulties in handling subcutaneous infusion and syringe driver. As DDA was often included in subcutaneous infusion and syringe driver, it is very dangerous if mishandling occur due to inexperience or unfamiliarity. Therefore, a need for improvement and standardization was perceived. A simple and easy to understand workflow was established in order to facilitate staff to handle subcutaneous infusion and syringe driver. It ensured optimum oncological symptom management can be provided safely.

Objectives
1. To facilitate staff in handling subcutaneous infusion and syringe driver
2. To enhance staff competency in handling subcutaneous infusion and syringe driver

Methodology
1. A need for the establishment of handling subcutaneous infusion and syringe driver is noticed.
2. Workflow was established in cooperation with supervisors and reference to departmental guidelines on administration of subcutaneous infusion and syringe driver.
3. Workflow was established and applied to use in February 2014.
4. Satisfaction survey was conducted among staff.
Result
15 nursing staff in A9 ward participated in the survey. 67% of them expressed difficulties in handling subcutaneous infusion & syringe driver prior to the establishment of the workflow. The degree of difficulties (prior to the availability of workflow) was noted to be higher in junior staff (oncology experience <3 years) expectedly. But some experienced staff even expressed higher degree of difficulties (in terms of score) when compared to junior staff. All staff agreed that the workflow is easy to use and facilitated them in handling subcutaneous infusion and syringe driver. (Mean score for degree of facilitation is 8.4)