Evaluation on the effectiveness of a nurse-led clinic in O&T
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Introduction
With an increasing emphasis on discharging patients earlier from hospital and making use of day care services, an O&T nurse led clinic service in PWH has been piloted to some patients' groups such as chronic wound care and post-operative care after foot correction surgery since 2011.

Objectives
1. Facilitate early discharge from inpatient service and maintain patient in the community
2. Provide a continuity of care by regular outpatient follow up
3. Perform different kinds of nursing intervention in outpatient setting to maximize each patient's health outcomes
4. Enhance high level of patient compliance, empowerment, and carer involvement
5. Reduce AED visit and unplanned readmission rate

Methodology
The O&T Nurse Clinic is organized and run by an advanced practice nurse. All outpatients and inpatients who require advanced specialized nursing care which are within the service scope can be directly referred from O&T doctors and nurses. Patients are generally followed up at intervals of 1-2 weeks. Also, a direct phone line is provided to patient or carer for enquiry and reporting of any deteriorated condition. The scope of service includes:
1. Perform health assessment, foot assessment, and wound assessment
2. Perform different kinds of intervention, e.g., conservative sharp debridement, callosity debridement, compression bandage therapy, conforming bandaging and tapping, and negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT)
3. Provide health education and patient or carer training, e.g., wound care techniques and lower limb exercises
4. Arrange joint consultation with respective medical colleague for overall treatment plan

Result
From November 2011 to October 2014, a total of 251 patients were received the O&T
nurse led clinic service. 41% of the patients were received foot correction surgery and 59% of the patients were suffered from chronic leg ulcers. For the leg ulcer group, 93% of them can manage to change dressing at home; while 7% of them utilized the community resources such as GOPD and CNS. Also, 76% of them achieved full wound healing. Importantly, there was no AED visit and unplanned readmission for those patients who has attended the nurse clinic. Patient satisfaction survey results were encouraging; patients appreciated the availability of the clinic and were complimentary of the care they received. It is clear that through such advancement of the nursing practice in the ambulatory setting, the continuity and standard of orthopaedic care can further be enhanced.