



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

Convention ID: 1118

Submitting author: Ms IP LAI FONG MANDY

Post title: Ward Manager, AHNH, NTEC

Simple Assessment Fast Elimination: Use of Bedrail Bumper to Reduce Patient Injury in Hospitals

Ip LF(1), Kwok SCB(2), Lee PY(3), Cheng PYC(4), Poon MYC(5)

(1) Department of Medicine, AHNH; (2) Quality & Safety, AHNH & TPH;

(3) Department of Orthopaedic Rehabilitation, TPH; (4) Department of Physiotherapy,

TPH; (5) Department of Occupational Therapy, TPH

Keywords:

patient injury

bedrail bumper

Introduction

Hospital is responsible for maintaining a safe environment for patients, a multidisciplinary workgroup is formed for the prevention of patient injuries during care. Through review of incidents, on site observation of transfer technique, workflow, environment and equipment, improvement strategies are developed and promoted. With the aging population, the number of old fragile in-patients is also increasing while musculoskeletal problems coupled with flimsy skin and confusion is more common. Patients are prone to injury when hitting against bed-side rails or their limbs are trapped in the bedrails. Usually, Occupational Therapy is consulted for assessment and protective device but the service is not available after office hours, at weekends or on public holidays. Two incidents of serious injury resulting in suturing were reported in 2016.

Objectives

- 1) Timely protect fragile patient with involuntary limb movements, contractures and floppy limbs from hitting against bedrails and or bedrail entrapment
- 2) Empower nurses perform a simple assessment of patient and risk of bedrails
- 3) Support a fast elimination through store supply of bedrail bumpers

Methodology

The workgroup developed a simple list for identifying high risk patients with geriatrician's inputs. A model of bedrail bumper was selected with Occupational Therapist's opinion and purchased for trial use in participating wards and Department of Radiology at 1Q/2017. To enhance the awareness on assessing the risk of bedrail entrapment, a workshop on prevention of patient injuries for nurses and supporting staff was conducted in 2Q 2017.

Result

After 4 weeks of trial use of bedrail bumpers, staff awareness was increased. User feedback showed the bedrail bumper was effective in protecting the identified high risk patients from injury. Patients needs are promptly attended to by nurses. The

bumper was easy to use and clean. By the end of 2017, no more serious patient injury related to bedrails was reported. More bedrail bumpers with modification according to users' comments are ordered to ensure readiness for patient use. 'Use of bedrail bumper to reduce patient injury in hospital' is a successful strategy and provides a fast elimination of risk through nurses' simple assessment.