



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Clinical Photos Make Early Discharge and Better Communications

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Introduction

There are two operation days a week in North District Hospital (NDH) for breast cancer patients, Tuesday and Friday. Day-2-discharge-program (D2DP) started from the year 2016. If patients were operated on Friday, they were usually discharged on post-operation day 3 (i.e. Monday) in 2016. Clinical photos started to be taken in 2017 to facilitate community nurses (CNS) and breast nurse for pre-discharge assessment. Patients now visited the Pre-operative Assessment Clinic (POAC) and with the help of the volunteers to teach them drain technique before admitted for surgery. All these achievements promote early discharge as early on post-operation day 2 or even day 1 from 2017.

Objectives

Pre-discharge clinical photos of the patients with mastectomy wounds enhance early discharge and shortened the length of stay (LOS).

Methodology

Starts from 1/1/2017, patients who are discharged on weekends when no breast nurse and CNS available, case nurses should take a clinical photo of the mastectomy wound before discharge after taking patients' verbal consent. Clinical photos must be printed out and keep in patients profile and wait for CNS assessment on Monday.

Result

In 2017, total 125 patients were operating on Friday. 90 patients (72%) were discharged on day 1 and 13 patients (10.4%) were discharged on day 2. Pre-discharge clinical photos enhance communication between multidisciplinary nursing teams and facilitate patients discharge on weekends. CNS accepts the case for home care successfully on Monday. Over 80% patients can discharge home within 2 days, so, a shortened LOS.

Furthermore, with the development of Clinical camera Apps in 2015 by Hospital Authority (HA), mastectomy wounds photos before discharge now can be uploaded to CMS in confidential patient profile by liaised ward nurse. This mobile app is security controlled and streamlined workflow efficiently.