



Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations

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Sharing Elderly Friendly Ward Design in Extended Care setting (Shatin Hospital)

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Introduction

Among older people, the hospitalization rate increases with age, older people are major users of hospital services, hospitals are more focused on their own operational needs than the needs of older people who may have impairment in mobility, vision hearing and cognition. How can hospital create physical environments that support functional activity to reduce stress and enhance safety in older patients. The key design features of elderly friendly environment range from lighting, color and contrast, floors, orientation and signage, furniture and atmosphere. Elderly friendly design may therefore have direct impact on the quality service in hospital. Therefore, elderly friendly ward design is required to meet the different needs of the older patients.

Objectives

1. To facilitate recovery and rehabilitation for older patients.
2. To enhance safety measures on fall prevention with minimal physical restraint.
3. To promote family engagement for older patients.
- 4 To streamline staff workflow and enhance the monitoring to ensure clinical safety.

Methodology

Elements of elderly friendly design include floor, light, color, signage and atmosphere. To enhance orientation and promote independence, adequate lighting enhances safety, this is particular important for older patients with dementia, and different color for different ward cubicle and contrasting colors for floor and wall, this helps the older patients to identify their location; bright color furniture, big clock and calendar, sitting alcove creates resting point, along ward corridor and small communal spaces have imposed socialization. Furthermore, older patients with dementia are physically active and tend to wander, anti-wandering door bar and handrail along corridor inside the ward act as a walking path, to facilitate demented patients walk around without using physical restraint; eye catching large graphical indication and signage for way finding. Moreover, in order to enhance independence and promote maintenance function, using merry walker to promote the concept of self rehabilitation and ward based gym sessions are provided to patients in integrated rehab area. In addition, resilient vinyl floor (foam back) and contrasting colors for floor, hip protectors and head saver, fall alarm pad, low height bed and anti-wandering system, doll therapy provided to patients for prevention of fall, minimizing restraint and minimize fall impact. Besides,

designated end of life room next to integrated rehab area and allow flexible visiting hours to promote carer engagement. Lastly, satellite nurse work station in different cubicles to streamline staff workflow and enhance the monitoring to ensure clinical safety.

Result

Elderly friendly ward design has an important role to play in supporting clinical interventions and also good for all, which include patients, carers and staff. Patients, carers and staff are satisfaction to elderly friendly ward environment and family members are engaged in patient's care, and also emotional support to patient. Thus, quality of care is enhanced. Staff and carer satisfaction survey will be conducted in March 2018 to evaluate the elderly friendly environment that meets the different needs of the older patients and the benefit on the quality service in hospital.

Simply a good physical environment alone means nothing to a therapeutic setting, it has to be meaningful aligned with the recognition of the important of person-centred care approach and practices. In order to promote an elderly friendly care environment, we need to build up a caring team, more understand and sensitive to the needs of patients and family members, use of elderly friendly ward design and develop positive patient care practices. To promote good hospital care of the elderly not only by structure and design, but also process of care to produce elder friendly outcomes.