



**Service Priorities and Programmes**  
**Electronic Presentations**

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**Enhancement of Safety in Manual Handling of Patients in Physiotherapy**

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**Introduction**

There were incidents of injury on duty (IOD) in Physiotherapy (PT) department in past few years. Majority of IOD incidents was related to manual handling of patients in PT department. Therefore, a CQI program was conducted in PT department in order to enhance safety in manual handling of patients.

**Objectives**

The objectives of the CQI project were to identify the causes of IOD incident related to patient handling, to refresh the knowledge and skills of staff in patient handling, and to minimize the risk of injury of staff during patient care with manual handling.

**Methodology**

IOD relating to manual handling for patients in PT department from April 2013 to March 2017 were reviewed. According to the IOD incident review, causes of IOD relating to patient handling might be due to the presence of new frontline staffs in PT department, who were not familiar with knowledge and practical skills in patient handling; injury on unpredictable situation when staffs attempted to prevent patients from falling. Thus, a refresher course and a practical demonstration in manual handling were conducted to refresh all staffs with necessary knowledge and skills in patient handling.

After that, a written assessment was given to all therapists and supporting staffs to ensure adequate knowledge in patient handling, while a practical assessment was given to all supporting staffs to ensure good compliance to proper skills in patient handling.

**Result**

40 staffs (25 therapists and 15 supporting staffs) in PT department participated in the written assessment. The percentage of correct answer for the quiz was 93.7% (therapist: 95.5% and supporting staff: 90.7%). The common mistake was

unawareness of the correct placement of wheelchair during patient transfer. 15 supporting staffs participated in the practical skills assessment. The overall compliance rate was 91%. The common problems include unawareness of patients' symptom after changing their position, and adjustment of the bed height and walking aids during patient care.

Statistics on IOD incidents relating to manual handling for patients in PT department has been reviewed after the refresher course, so far there is no related IOD from March to December, 2017.

The results above demonstrate that our staffs can acquire good knowledge and practical skills in patient handling after the refresher course. It also enhances safety in manual handling of patients. Regular refresher course in patient handling is strongly recommended.