



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Clinical audit on pre-weaning program for tracheostomized patients in surgical wards of Shatin hospital

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Introduction

Physiotherapists in surgical wards of Shatin Hospital are responsible for the Pre-weaning program (PWP) for neurosurgery patients with tracheostomy. The program aims to provide pre-weaning assessment for tracheostomized patients and to facilitate neurosurgeons in making decision for decanulation. Though a PWP guideline has been established to ensure the safety and quality of care, there was absence of audit and evaluation exercise performed in the assessment, procedure and documentation in the PWP.

Objectives

This continuous quality improvement (CQI) project is to perform an audit on the previous pre-weaning trials in surgical wards of Shatin Hospital in order to make suggestions for safety and quality improvement for the assessment, procedure and documentation.

Methodology

An audit committee was formed and developed an audit form based on the requirement of current guideline. There were 8 main domains in the audit form including presence of referral; assessment of physical conditions; airway assessment; vital signs monitoring; documentation; necessity of termination; emergency management; and follow-up actions. The audit exercise was conducted by an independent staff. The results collected from the audit exercise would be analyzed. Poorly complied items were evaluated and necessary actions would be implemented accordingly.

Result

7 cases were included in the audit exercise in year 2016/17. The compliance rate of completing required items ranged from 64% to 91% with an average of 78%. 5 items were scored a total of 18 "no", indicating areas of non-compliance. Those non-complied criterion included inspections for signs of abnormality (7 out of 7); comment on patient's performance (4 out of 7); continuous monitoring of oxygen

saturation (3 out of 7); continuous monitoring of vital signs (3 out of 7); and assessment on adequate level of consciousness (1 out of 7). From the audit review, significant safety areas which staff should be well aware of were identified. The audit report and comment was shared to relevant colleague for learning and improvement. The PWP assessment form was modified based on the audit review to enhance safety awareness of possible undesirable conditions and also to improve completeness and quality of documentation. The audit exercise will be conducted annually to maintain the quality of the program and to further evaluate the procedural safety and documentation quality.