



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

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**How can a Joint Occupational Medicine-Orthopaedics Clinic enhance the medical care and hasten the return-to-work of healthcare workers with work disability?**

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**Introduction**

Prompt orthopaedics assessment and intervention are crucial for successful work rehabilitation for workers suffered from significant work disability due to orthopaedics problems. A joint clinic setting can enhance communication between occupational medicine (OM) professionals and orthopaedics specialists and facilitate faster and better decision on treatment and rehabilitation plan. A joint OM-orthopaedics clinic was established under OMCS in KEC in May 2015. Healthcare workers with complicated orthopaedics problems resulting in significant work disability were selected for fast track orthopaedics specialist assessment and therapeutic procedures in the joint clinic.

**Objectives**

To evaluate the characteristics and work status outcomes of patients attending the joint clinic

**Methodology**

All patients attended the joint clinic between May 2015 and December 2017 were included. Clinical data were retrieved through Clinical Management System.

**Result**

65 patients attended the joint clinic. The mean age of patients was 43.2. 57 (87.7%) patients were female, 44 (67.7%) patients were supporting staff, and 18 (27.7%) patients were nurses. 47 (72.3%) patients' problems were due to injury-on-duty. There were totally 77 pathologies and the 4 most prevalent body parts involved were: back (24, 31.2%), wrist (12, 15.6%), neck (9, 11.7%) and shoulder (9, 11.7%). The average waiting time for the clinic was 15.6 days. 13 cases (20%) were referred to orthopaedics clinic, with a median waiting time of 29 days.

The work statuses before and after attending the joint clinic were:

Before: sick leave (33, 50.8%), modified duty with reduced work hours (4, 6.2%), modified duty (37, 38.5%),;

After 1 month: sick leave (19, 30.6%), modified duty with reduced work hour (10, 16.1%), modified duty (28, 45.2%), ;

After 3 months: sick leave (9, 15.8%), modified duty with reduced work hour (11, 18.6%), modified duty (32, 54.2%) and full duty (7, 11.9%).

For those 49 patients joined the clinic more than 6 months ago, the return-to-work rate was significantly improved at 6th month, with 46 (93.7%) healthcare workers resumed modified or full duty.