



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

Convention ID: 664

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CQ I project: TOP-up programme for physiotherapist trained overseas

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Keywords:

CQI

oversea physiotherapy graduate

Top up program

competence

Introduction

For new physiotherapy graduates from overseas, their undergraduate training curriculum and clinical practice was not the same as that in the local training institute. The main difference falls onto the use of electrotherapeutic modalities. Having the overseas graduates joined the local workforce; there came an issue of staff competence, treatment effectiveness and safety. To ensure staff competence in local practice, some top up training is indicated for staff trained overseas to work within Hospital Authority institutes.

Objectives

A Continuous Quality Improvement project was carried out to 1)find out the discrepancy between local and overseas training curriculum in electrotherapy. 2)identify the content of the top-up training programme 3)construct the format, programme duration and assessment for exit 4)implement and monitor the progress of training with outcome evaluation

Methodology

The project was carried out in three phases. Phase I involved brainstorming of the difference in curriculum content and writing up the training content. Phase II involved execution of the top-up training. Phase III involved the written and practical assessments. Outcome included establishment of a training program, compilation of the training material, carrying out the training and conducting the assessment.

Result

In Phase I, a preliminary working group was composed of an experienced Physiotherapist I, local graduates and overseas new graduates to find out the discrepancy and difference of training curriculum in electrotherapy. A list of 8 electrotherapeutic modalities was identified for the training programme. Back-up information from local graduates and a summary note for each modality was prepared. In phase II, a study group comprising of a facilitator (a physiotherapist I) and 4 targeted physiotherapists were set up. Weekly sharing on theory and practical skills for each modality for two hours per session was carried out. In Phase III, the

competency level of the targeted physiotherapists in this Electrotherapy training programme was achieved through studying the notes & recommendations from updated articles. Their practical skills were enhanced through completion of the practical session for each modality covered, with monitoring and recording. All passed the quiz for exit at the end of the training with an average score of 82.5/100. The present Top-up training programme was formulated through identification of the continuous improvement project through risk registry and consideration of the quality and safety. The program is advocated for the future overseas physiotherapy graduates joining the Hospital Authority.