



Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations

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A Structured Program in Anesthetist Assistant Training

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Introduction

Anesthetic assistants (AA) constitute an important part of the operating theater population; however there is a lack of systematic training. Despite corporate AA training offered to new recruits, existing staff are being overlooked. In A&OT department, we used to have some scattered AA training on demand basis. To ensure the quality of the AA, a structured training program is needed. Seeing the gap in AA training, in 4Q 2016 we had designed a structured training program for OTA/PCAs in our department.

Objectives

1. provide systematic training to all OTA/PCAs 2. enhance their knowledge and skill in various anesthetic issues 3. offer standardized assessment for all OTA/PCAs

Methodology

The program composed of 2 tiers, which will cater for the need of novice and experienced OTA and PCA (AA). 1. First tier is for new entry staff without AA experience a. PCA (AA) will be assessed by nurses during the first three months. Clinical assessment form will be used to assess the progress, upon successful completion, record will be send to HR for filing. Then it will be regarded as successfully pass the probation period. b. Clinical log book will be used to monitor the progress of the new PCA (AA). who have to fulfill all the items listed. After successful completion of the log book, it will be regarded as completion of the first tier. c. Bimonthly training will be conducted by Anesthetist and experience nurses. d. Initial basic competence assessment will be done by Anesthetist and experienced nurses. 2. Second tier caters for existing staff with AA experience. a. Bimonthly training will be conducted by Anesthetist and experienced nurses to cover a wide range of topics that are of practical use. Post training evaluation will be conducted by preceptors concerned b. Yearly assessment on core competence consist of critical scenarios will be conducted, which require some advance techniques, such as assisting in critical airway or assisting in massive bleeding and some basic skill assessment such as setting up of A line and CVP

Result

Systematic training was offered. Since the launch of the program in 4Q2016, all OTA/PCAs were offered training to enrich their knowledge and skill. So far we have conducted 6 lectures concerning common issues in OT, all the lectures had received very positive feedback, and over 90% regarded the lectures useful, comprehensive and help them in their daily work. Structured evaluation was conducted. In 2Q 2017 competence on positioning was conducted, all OTA/PCAs had successfully passed the assessment. Core competence on another area will be selected and conducted in 2018. Staff feels valued and increases their sense of belonging.