**Introduction**
Functional recovery is one of the major goals in SCI rehabilitation. Reliable and sensitive measure is essential to detect changes across continuum of care. MMRC used Functional Independent Measure (FIM) as a generic outcome measure for patients from different diagnostic groups. SCIM III, which was specifically designed for SCI patients, has been proved to be valid for both traumatic (1) and non-traumatic SCI patients (2). It was recommended as an appropriate functional recovery outcome for SCI patients (3), with some ceiling effects minimized comparing to FIM in this disease group.

**Objectives**
This exploratory study included 33 SCI patients (17 males (51%), 16 females (49%), mean age=55.8) and intended to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of using SCIM III.

**Methodology**
SCIM III was charted by two Occupational Therapists (OT) for SCI patients and FIM was charted by case therapist on admission and pre-discharge. Statistical analysis was used to evaluate inter-rater reliability of SCIM III and correlation between SCIM III and FIM by case therapist. The duration for charting SCIM III was timed.

**Result**
For intra-rater validity, strong correlation was found between SCIM III and FIM. Spearman coefficients for case therapists were all $\geq 0.900$ (p<.001, n=14 and n=19) for admission and discharge. For inter-rater reliability of SCIM III, intra-class correlation coefficients (ICC) was 0.979 (Admission) with 95% confidence interval from 0.955-0.990 (F(32,32)=105.977, p<.001) and 0.991 (Discharge) with 95% confidence interval from 0.982-0.998 (F(32,32)=234.890, p<.001). An average of 3-minute was needed to chart a SCIM III. This study showed SCIM III was a reliable and valid functional measure in local SCI rehabilitation setting. SCIM III evaluates activities...
which are not included in FIM, such as respiration, transfer to car and from ground to wheelchair, and it was revealed to be more responsive to changes, especially in functional recovery of respiration and sphincter management. Also, comparing to measuring burden of care by FIM (4), SCIM III provides us a more comprehensive functional recovery outcome measure for SCI patients. With minimal time to chart SCIM III, it was suggested to be implemented as an outcome measure in our service to add clinical value in terms of comprehensiveness and sensitivity to monitor rehabilitation progress of SCI patients, in addition to FIM.