



Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations

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Enhancement on Autonomic Function Test workflow

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Introduction

Autonomic function tests is a non-invasively test to evaluate the severity of autonomic failure; and it can help to diagnose the problem of autonomic nervous system. It involves measurements of blood pressure and heart rate in response to a manipulation such as the orthostatic test, a deep breathing, the Valsalva maneuver, and the isometric handgrip test. Although the test is carried out by the doctor, the equipment and patient preparation are the nurse's responsibility. However, many nurses are not familiar with the test; they do not know the procedure steps, how to setup the equipment correctly, and assist the doctor to perform the test appropriately. Consequently, the precise data acquisition is difficult, and it will affect the result of test. The autonomic function test is also regarded as a time-consuming and complicated test. In view of this, it is essential to highlight the testing technique, modify the workflow and promulgate the new procedure guide.

Objectives

(1)To facilitate nurse and doctor in performing the autonomic function test (2)To optimize the workflow of the autonomic function test (3)To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the test

Methodology

(1)Review the existing guide. (2)Discuss with endocrinologist and neurologist for the comment. (3)Standardize the equipment preparation, and take photos and mark with key notes on individual steps for graphic illustration to better understand the procedure with standardized approach. (4)Modify the testing steps to optimize the workflow smoothly. (5)Modify the record form to include all the raw data for better documentation. (6)Develop the new procedure guide and record form. (7)Promulgate the new procedure guide to all staff in M&G department and upload it to the M&G website in July 2017. (8)Conduct the evaluation survey of the new procedure guide in January 2018

Result

Evaluation survey was done to collect feedback from nurses and doctors in 3 wards. Positive comments were received from the majority of respondents which included (1)78% strongly agree/agree the new guide is easy to access in department website,

(2)82% strongly agree/agree the content and graphic illustration is clear and concise, (3)73% strongly agree/agree the procedure is easy to follow according to the new guide, (4)73% strongly agree/agree the modified testing steps are proceeded smoothly. By reference to the new guide, they also agree the testing time should be shortened effectively and it is helpful to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the test.