



Service Priorities and Programmes
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A pilot Driver Assessment & Rehabilitation Service in Princess Margaret Hospital

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Introduction

A new pilot Driver Rehabilitation (DR) service has been launched since 1 Aug 2017. It offers a wide range of Driver Assessment & Rehabilitation including off-road assessment to evaluate patients' essential components / limitation for safe driving, driving simulation evaluation & training as well as simple vehicle modification training.

Objectives

The triage of DR was enhanced and currently the waiting time of DR was maintained within the Priority 2 category (week 2-8 weeks) at outpatient phase. For those requiring comprehensive driving assessment & rehabilitation would be triaged to CRSSC and the process of driving assessment takes about 2 months to complete. The waiting time was greatly reduced. The DR facilitates early reintegration to driving for our patients, which better suits the patient's needs & expectation.

Methodology

There were about 50 referred for DR to Occupational Therapy department of Princess Margaret Hospital in 2016. In the past, patients identified with the need for driving assessment would be referred out to Rehab-aid for DR. The process took about 6-12 months to complete. With the new screening mechanism / triage system implemented by a certified driver assessor (Occupational Therapist) in our department, it takes about 2-8 weeks to screen out patients whom an on-road assessment is inappropriate because of functional deficits clearly preclude safe driving or unsafe driving is determined on the two-level screening. Complex cases whom required further comprehensive on road assessment to ensure safe driving, e.g. commercial vehicle driver with severe functional deficits or required high technical vehicle modification, would be referred to Community Resource Support Service Centre (CRSSC).

Result

As of 31 January 2018, there were 30 patients referred to the new DR services. Two-level screening was performed to 23 cases with 11 of them (47%) further referred to CRSSC for comprehensive driving assessment & rehabilitation. Reviewing the data from the new database, patients consisted of diverse diagnoses including CVA, IHD, lung transplantation, orthopaedic problems such as AKA and over 92% were drivers of commercial vehicles such as taxi, light goods vehicle, container truck. The new service demand and challenges are emerging, not only limit to disability driving

assessment & rehabilitation, but also to safe driving of aging, learning driving of persons with disability and increasing demand of safe driving assessment & rehabilitation of patients of private & commercial vehicles.