



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Submitting author: Dr Eric HO

Post title: Associate Consultant, TKOH, KEC

To safeguard overlooking abnormal histopathology report by screening of Weekly Summary Report

Ho EPY(1), Huang HYH(1), Ching CK(1), Cheung SY(2), Lam MK(1), Au WC(1), Tam ANC(1), Lam EKL(1)

**1 Quality & Safety Office, TKOH*

**2 Ambulatory Service, TKOH*

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Introduction

Overlooking abnormal histopathology report is an adverse medical incident which can lead to delay in treatment of malignant disease. Screening of “Anatomical and Cellular Pathology Weekly Summary Report” by a designated medical staff aims to minimize the chance of overlooking important histopathology reports and ensure patient is properly managed.

Objectives

To avoid overlooking abnormal anatomical and cellular pathology reports lead to delayed or improper treatment.

Methodology

Screening of “Anatomical and Cellular Pathology Weekly Summary Report” in Tseung Kwan O Hospital was implemented in September 2017. The “Weekly Summary Report” is printed at 8 a.m. every Tuesday. All histopathology, cytology and FNA reports have been sent to the printing location during the previous week are retrieved and listed in the “Weekly Summary Report”. Designated staff in each unit collects and identifies the specialty of the reported patient. The “Weekly Summary Report” is distributed to designated medical staff in different clinical departments. The designated medical staff checks the abnormal results against the information in the Clinical Management System to confirm the patient is properly managed. The screened “Weekly Summary Report” is stored by a custodian for 1 year. Staff engagement was done through setting up of a working group with representatives from different clinical departments and units which need to handle large volume of histopathology reports. Long period of trial, effective feedback mechanisms and promulgation in various meetings were done to improve staff engagement.

A review of the screening process was carried out 4 months after the implementation.

Result

From September 2017 to December 2017, 108 “Weekly Summary Reports” had been screened which involved 7 specialties and 23 working units. There were 2122 anatomical and cellular pathology results being screened and 120 reports of malignant lesion were identified. All malignant results had been addressed by the designated medical staff and documented appropriately. Screening of “Anatomical and Cellular Pathology Weekly Summary Report” can provide feedback and reminder to the ordering departments. Moreover, appropriate clinical actions taken can be verified by a senior staff in a timely manner.