



**Service Priorities and Programmes**  
**Electronic Presentations**

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**Submitting author:** Ms Mei Wan Lee

**Post title:** Advanced Practice Nurse, Tseung Kwan O Hospital, KEC

**Dramatic decrease in Needle Stick Injury (NSI) through an Awareness Enhancement Program in A&OT, TKOH**

*Lee MW(1), To SF(2), Lau CC(3), Yip WY(4), Cheng HK(5), Ngai YY(6), Fung CK (7)  
Anaesthesia and Operating Theatre Department, Tseung Kwan O Hospital.*

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**Introduction**

Needle stick injury (NSI) not only poses threat to theatre nurses, but also the financial burden in post needle stick follow up, vaccination and consultation etc. In 2011, we were faced with a sudden upsurge in NSI incidents. To eliminate NSI, we decided to review and revise the existing program to heighten the staff's awareness on the concerned issue

**Objectives**

1. Enhance staff awareness on needle stick injury prevention 2. Promote compliance on NSI prevention strategies 3. Reduce NSI incidents through staff education 4. Improve working amenities to provide a supportive working environment for work safety 5. Build a safety culture within the Anaesthesia and Operating Theatre Department

**Methodology**

Training sessions More than five training and discussion sessions were held for operating theatre nurses to reinforce the concept of Neutral Zone and clarify misconceptions. Over 95% of staff received training on NSI prevention. Engineered control The use of magnetic pad as a "neutral zone" was introduced as improved work amenities, so that staffs were provided with a safer working environment. Sharps with additional safety features such as retractable angiocath, blunt needle and skin adhesives etc. were introduced and staff compliance were reinforced. Getting frontline staff acceptance Frontline Registered Nurses were invited to design the board on NSI Prevention and Information Sharing. This let them participate in the NSI issues and win their support. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) and Open End Questions (OEQ) Both MCQ and OEQ were designed by the training group and the OSH group. The 100% respondent rate indicated staffs are interested in the program. Heightened awareness is evidenced by over 90% correct respondents rate on MCQ. As for OEQ the correct rate is only 60%, which revealed a knowledge gap on safety devices available in OT, which calls for more attention to the promotion of handling sharps with safety device.

**Result**

Dramatic reduction in NSI NSI incident was reduced by 70% (from 10 in 2011 to 3 in 2102). Enhanced awareness Through continuous education, more than 90% of the staff had attended lectures on NSI prevention. An over 90% correct respondent rate in MCQ indicated an enhanced awareness of OT nurses on NSI prevention.