



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Enhancement Program on Nursing Education of Application of Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT)

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Introduction

Health care professionals are facing with many complex wound-healing challenges. The principles of treatment for acute and chronic wounds traditionally include debridement and the application of dressings. Since the past decade, NPWT has been widely adopted for complex wound management with well-documented positive clinical outcomes in orthopaedics and traumatology units. However, complications arise from NPWT are often related to inadequate staff education of NPWT usage and failure in monitoring. Nursing education and establishment of guideline are therefore paramount important to ensure safe practice in NPWT application and minimize associated patient risks.

Objectives

(1) To enhance nurses' competence and skill in applying NPWT (2) To assess nursing staffs' knowledge in NPWT application (3) To provide updated knowledge on NPWT application

Methodology

A Pre-test and post-test design was employed to evaluate participants' knowledge. Subjects were nursing staff who worked in the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (O&T) in Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH). The program consisted of a one-hour lecture and a hands-on skill workshop. Outcome measures included a knowledge test, self-rated competency level and audit on skill re-demonstration.

Result

A total of 47 nursing staff (about 78% of orthopedic nurses in Department of O&T, PWH) attended the program. Compared the mean score of pretest and posttest, the program is significantly increased nurses' knowledge on NPWT application (increased 25%, $p < 0.001$). They rated themselves more competent upon completion of program ($p < 0.001$). There is a correlation that increased in knowledge of NPWT application

might cause an increase of level of competence in NPWT application ($p < 0.001$). The level of compliance in skill re-demonstration achieved 99%. Thus program has been shown effective in enhancing nurses' knowledge and their competence in NPWT application.