Ground rule for meeting helicopter: What is the role of the emergency nurse?

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Introduction
Emergency nursing is one of the most challenging areas of professional nursing. Pre-Hospital Emergency Care is one of the extended role of emergency nurses. It starts from basic patient inter-facility transfer, receiving helicopter patient to dispatch Emergency Medical Team in disaster situation. Tuen Mun Hospital (TMH) Accident & Emergency (A&E) Department is one of the two A&E departments among Hong Kong to receive helicopter emergency patient. Around fifteen helicopter cases transferred to TMH AED annually.

Objectives
1. To ensure the proper procedure of receiving helicopter cases
2. To remind the risk of receiving helicopter cases
3. To understand the principles of safety rule in receiving helicopter cases

Methodology
In view of the last helicopter training was provided over ten years ago, steady turnover rate of emergency nurse and new types of helicopter for patient transport. A nursing team was set up under Department Emergency Nursing Training & Development team. In order to enhance and standardize the transport process of receiving helicopter cases, a multiple discipline approach was adopted to provide an indoor and outdoor training. Training and stimulated drill with the collaboration of Government Flying Service (GFS) in the GFS base was conducted on 3Q of 2012.

Result
After the training and drill with GFS colleagues. A post survey was conducted, there were 76% expressed strongly satisfied on enhance the learning, there were 71% expressed agree the debriefing session was informative and useful, there were 62% expressed strongly agree that more familiar with the basic operation in handling patient transferred by GFS, there were 64% expressed enhancing the personal technical skills. The p-value (student t-test) of the difference of competence before and after the training was ≤ 0.05. Conclusions The dedicated Emergency Nursing
Training & Development team in Tuen Mun Hospital Accident & Emergency Department was successful and effective to ensure standard and quality of emergency nursing services in pre hospital environment.