



Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations

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Pain Assessment Survey

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Introduction

Unrecognized and under-treated pain is not uncommon in hospital inpatients. Therefore, precise and systematic pain assessment is required to make the correct diagnosis and establish the most effective interventions for those patients. It is also a hospital policy requiring routine screening, assessment and documentation of pain for implementation of pain reduction strategy by health care staff.

Objectives

To evaluate staff compliance in pain assessment and documentation based on hospital guidelines

Methodology

• According to the OLMH Pain Assessment and Documentation Guidelines, initial pain assessment should be conducted in all newly admitted patients. Different pain assessments are then employed for general wards, surgical and palliative care (PC) patients. • A point survey to examine staff compliance with pain assessment and documentation guidelines for OLMH inpatients was conducted on 10 May 2012 in all the 7 clinical wards. Particular attention was given to documentation on the "Pain Chart" of pain score greater than or equal to 2 using the Verbal Rating Scale (VRS). • The Clinical Audit on the Documentation of Pain Assessment in Palliative Care in-patients receiving Strong Opioids was carried out in PC Unit from 20 June to 20 September 2012.

Result

• A total of 188 inpatients were assessed in the point survey. It showed that initial pain assessment was carried out in nearly 100% of patients upon admission to OLMH. There was close adherence to pain assessment guideline for post-operation patients. Meanwhile, less than 5% of inpatients were found to have initial pain score 2 or above (moderate pain). It seems that under detection of significant pain was still possible in some situations, e.g. communication problem. Therefore, suggestions are given to observe behavioural signs of pain or obtain collateral information from caregivers. • The clinical audit in PC Unit had recruited 54 newly admitted patients. Pain intensity

was assessed in nearly 100% of patients upon admission and in 87% within 5 days after admission/initiation of strong opioids. There was a mark improvement in compliance with hospital guidelines as a result of rising staff awareness. • Results of these audits were uploaded to hospital website for sharing with staff.