



Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations

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Improving women's health in a female patient predominant Hospital Authority Staff Clinic (HASC)

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Introduction

HASC plays an important role in promoting health for our staff patients. Cervical cancer is common in Hong Kong and evidence has shown that cervical screening can reduce incidence and mortality of cervical cancer. Since most of the attending patients of our clinic are working females (e.g. nursing and supporting staff), cervical screening for better women's health is particularly relevant. Developing strategies to improve their uptake rate is important to maintain health of our female staff.

Objectives

1. To evaluate and identify areas for enhancement in the process of cervical screening in a HASC. 2. To formulate strategies and implement changes to improve the coverage rate and process of cervical screening in the clinic.

Methodology

The records of all female patients aged 25-64 who attended our HASC from April 2010 to September 2010 were reviewed for area of enhancement regarding cervical screening. Eight areas of improvement in process and outcome were identified after record and literature review. Changes including educational meetings, guideline development, setting up reminders, increasing cervical screening sessions and providing patient education pamphlets were implemented. After implementation of changes for 6 months, the components of cervical screening and outcome of the patients from January 2011 to June 2011 were reviewed and compared with those before improvement strategies.

Result

272 and 273 patients were randomly selected in the two periods respectively. Almost all process indicators (documentation of sexual history, facilitation to have cervical screening, advice for next smear date, record of last two smears and education on cervical screening) showed significant improvement in the second period after implementation of changes. Importantly, the overall coverage of cervical screening (outcome indicator) increased from 57.7% to 75.7% and the coverage rate of our local hospital staff increased from 65.0% to 81.8%. This women's health programme resulted in positive impact on patients. Female staff's awareness on cervical screening was aroused. Health outcome would be improved as more female staff had

cervical screening according to prevailing guidelines. Other aspect of women's health initiatives such as breast awareness would be the next important step in our staff clinic with predominantly female patients.