



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

Convention ID: 469

Submitting author: Miss Eleanor Siu Lan WONG

Post title: Ward Manager, Prince of Wales Hospital, NTEC

Safe Removal of Surgical Drains: The importance of Essential Elements of Documentation

*Wong SL(1), Lee KF(1), Wong J(1), Yeung W(1), Lam CP(1), Law WS(1), Chui ST(1)
(1)Department of Surgery, Prince of Wales Hospital*

Keywords:

Factsheet

Removal Drain Label

Documentation

Introduction

The removal of surgical drain is a common procedure in surgical ward. It is either performed by nurses or doctors. The traditional documentation on the medical record is not standard. An incident of retained drain was discovered on a gentlemen suffering from liver abscess. He was initially treated with antibiotics and pigtail drainage. The pigtail was removed six weeks after insertion. The follow up Computerized Tomography was performed with suspicious retained guidewire or catheter fragment of four cm in the left lobe of liver. Immediate Root Cause Analysis was performed by Hospital Risk Management Team with the surgeons, the radiologists and the ward nurses. The finding of the documentation was only written as "pigtail was removed and nil complaint by patient".

Objectives

The panel members concluded that the documentation was not adequate to ensure the safe removal of the surgical drain. The proper way of documentation should compose of essential elements which are the name of the drain, the number of stitches being removed, the name of staff responsible for the removal drain, the removal process, the integrity of the drain and the number of stitch for anchoring. The surgical nurses also performed the study on the drain removal documentation in order to proven the irregular standard of the documentation.

Methodology

The Pre study of twenty medical records with surgical drains removal were checked, all were incomplete documented. The large Factsheet with flow chart, photos and drain removal labels of essential elements documentation was designed by Team Head, surgeon specialists and specialty nurses. The aim was to post up the factsheets all round the ward and conducted the seminar to the doctors and nurses regarding the importance of documentation. After the dissemination, audits on thirty six patients' documentation were performed. The compliance rate of fixing the labels and the completeness were one hundred percent.

Result

The gentleman was scheduled to have the operation of Lateral Sectionectomy. The finding of the foreign body was two centimeters long fish bone at segment two. Although the result was not the retained drain, the medical healthcare professionals had formulated the Drain Removal Label and the Procedure Guidelines to ensure the safety of the removal drain. It is the safe mechanism of drain removal.