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Falling into Place: A Practical and Tailor-made Approach for Conducting Interdisciplinary Education on Falls Prevention

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Introduction

There was a sharp increase in the number of fall incidents in 2011 as 17 fall incidents reported in March as against 5 in January and 9 in February in 2011. It was an alarming rate that made the top management to assess the effectiveness of hospital falls prevention management. It was noticed that education on falls prevention management to hospital staff was fragmented; only educational talks were given to nurse trainees and support staff. Prevention of falls in the hospital is everybody business. It is importance to empower every staff at every level to manage falls prevention.

Objectives

1. To enhance hospital staff awareness and knowledge of falls prevention management, including nurse trainee, nurses, supporting staff, pharmacist and allied health care professionals. 2. To increase interprofessional collaboration and enhance knowledge of the different roles each discipline plays on falls prevention management. 3. To conduct a structured, systematic and comprehensive educational talks of patient falls prevention management.

Methodology

1. To conduct regular, structured and comprehensive fall prevention talks quarterly to ensure every frontline staff has opportunity to attend the talks and to cater for new comers. 2. To cater for the needs of different level of staff. The educational talks are designed and tailor made to support staff and healthcare professionals. 3. To adopt a multi-disciplinary approach in conducting educational talks, speakers include nurse, physiotherapist, occupational therapist and pharmacist . 4. To invite guest speakers from other hospitals, such as Wong Tai Sin Hospital and Queen Mary Hospital to share their experiences of falls prevention management.

Result

1. From October 2011 to December 2012, 10 educational talks were conducted with 152 nursing staff (51% of total nursing staff), 50 nurse trainees and 110 support staff

(60% of total support staff), and 29 allied healthcare professionals attended. 2. 106 staffs participated in two seminars which were conducted by guest speakers. 3. On a 1 to 6 satisfaction scale (from point 1 very dissatisfied to point 6 very satisfied), 94.1% of attendances rated 4,5 and 6 point on how satisfied with the useful of the talks to their work, and 92.7% rated 4, 5 and 6 point on how satisfied with the overall of the talks. 4. The total number of fall incident in the Hospital decreased nearly 40% from 104incidents in 2011 to 65 incidents in 2012. The fall rate decreased from 1.01 in 1Q 2011 to 0.49 in 3Q 2012.