



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Proactive measures for preventing “Patient Safety Related Incidence” and enhancing gym safety during patient training in Department of Occupational Therapy

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Introduction

“Patient safety related incidence” (PSRI) is always the challenge to every healthcare provider in hospital settings. Regrettably, patient safety during rehabilitation training in gym was always being neglected. Gym training serves high patient volume daily, and involves intensive uses of hi-technology equipment. Unfortunately, staff-patient ratio is high and new or hi-technology equipment may not always function safely, therefore, proactive gym safety (GS) measures should be well taken.

Objectives

To establish proactive measures in safety enhancement for patient training in department of OT, CMC.

Methodology

A series of systematic GS measures was designed and established since 2009. Firstly, “Guideline on Provision of Treatment in Department on Gym Safety and Handling Emergency” was adopted, and staff-patient ratio was revisited accordingly. Secondly, periodical in-service workshop on emergency handling, fall prevention, and OT gym safety were carried out. Especially when new equipment was introduced, operational and safety trainings must be delivered by authorized personnel. Thirdly, checklists on fall prevention, electrical appliances/sockets checking were developed. Fourthly, daily checking on frequently-used and weight-loading equipment was implemented. Diagrams and cue cards were attached to those devices to ensure staff inspecting important parts correctly and thoroughly. Lastly, regular GS round and audits were performed to reassure the compliance and standard of above GS measures.

Result

From GS rounds and audits, 90-100% of safety measures compliance by OT staff achieved. By in-service training, staff’s GS knowledge improved by 5%. Most importantly, in practical, 3 incidents of critical equipment defect were detected in

2011-12 by daily equipment checking before usage. These near misses might potentially cause incidents with severity index 3 or above, because all these devices consisted of weight-loading parts. One of them was even newly purchased for 3 months only. A string from its lifting part was broken, immediate actions were taken, report was also sent to OTCOC to alert other departments. Conclusion PSRI may bring adverse effects on patients, and increases length of stay. It also breaks patients' rapport towards staff leading to discredit of professional image and corporation reputation. Proactive GS measures in department of OT, CMC showed its effectiveness in preventing patients from injury and enhancing safety culture in the department.