



**Service Priorities and Programmes**  
**Electronic Presentations**

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**Submitting author:** Ms YUK CHUNG TONG

**Post title:** Occupational Therapist I, Caritas Medical Centre, KWC

**New Challenge—Occupational Therapy Services in the Enhanced Public and Primary Care Services (EPPS)**

*Tong YC (1), Chan SF (2)*

*(1) Occupational Therapist, West Kowloon GOPC (2) Occupational Therapist, East Kowloon GOPC*

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**Introduction**

Traditionally Occupational Therapy (OT) works mostly in hospital settings. With increasing emphasis on primary healthcare, OT, like other allied health professions, is provided directly inside the General Out-patient Clinics (GOPC) for early assessment and intervention to the needy clients.

**Objectives**

The aim was to explore the new services model for the newly developed EPPS in Kowloon West Cluster (KWC) in order to facilitate further services planning and development.

**Methodology**

The referral and waiting time of OT services, as well as the corresponding establishment were evaluated in KWC GOPC where there were two full-time occupational therapists providing services in the East Kowloon GOPC since Feb 2012 and West Kowloon GOPC since Jan 2013 respectively.

**Result**

With the EPPS in KWC GOPC, there were nine scopes of services developed. Examples of services were splintage, cognitive programs, varicose veins program, and Occupational Lifestyle Redesign (OLSR). The waiting time for new referral was within two weeks, which achieved the goal of early intervention. Concerning the 2978 attendances in those clinics, most of the services were individual consultations (73%) whereas the rest were group programs or public talks. The top referrals for individual OT services were musculoskeletal cases (32%), the next two were cognitive cases (27%) and varicose veins (9%). With 798 new cases, the average number of treatment sessions for each case was around 3. In order to meet the requirement of new service model, new staff competency sets were enhanced in not only skills for chronic disease management (e.g. Flinders program) and chronic pain management (e.g. Bowen technique), but also soft skills like motivational interviewing and health counseling. Equipment such as sewing machines, splintage system, cognitive and

physical assessment kits were established. Clinical Management System like Allied Health Documentation and paperless electronic referral system were also incorporated in KWC GOPC. Conclusion Both Occupational therapists and the new service model should be enhanced to meet the challenge in primary health care settings. Our ultimate goal is to have early identification, prevention, and timely intervention to meet health care demand. This study showed satisfactory waiting time and extended scopes of OT services e.g. public talks in GOPC. Further studies are recommended to evaluate the effectiveness and treatment outcome of the new OT services.