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A strategy to improve the Safety & Efficiency of Patient Inter-hospital Transfer

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Introduction

To provide the advanced medical services for critically ill patients, they will be transferred from ICU/CCU in POH to other specialties in different hospital. In year 2011 & mid-2012, there were 56 & 27 patients who required inter-hospital transfer respectively. The demand and complexity of inter-hospital transportation of patients were increasing as reflected by the colleagues and current data. Some current problems were also identified as follows: 1. It was difficult to perform resuscitation in the limited space at the ambulance. 2. There was lots of heavy equipment to be handling during transportation. 3. Some of the documentation of inter-hospital transportation was found incomplete and missing. In order to facilitate the logistic of inter-hospital transport, the enhancement program on the escort service in ICU was conducted.

Objectives

1. To facilitate the logistic of resuscitation
2. To enhance safety of handling equipment
3. To improve the accuracy of documentation

Methodology

A pre-pilot audit was conducted from Jan to Jul 2012 in order to study the limitation of current practice. Then some measures were suggested and implemented base on the result of the pre-pilot audit. The measures included developing an update and clear flowchart for transfer arrangement, designing a communication cue card, revising the contents checklist of escort bag, and designing a new escort kit to enhance manual handling and occupational safety. Subsequently, the measures were evaluated by carried out a post-pilot study.

Result

1. The content of the escort kit was reorganized. ICU staff reflected that the new escort kit was easy and effective to be used during resuscitation.
2. The total weight and volume of escort bag was also decreased
3. The documentation is concise and completed after reinforcement and completed the survey