



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Strategic approach to prevent hospital acquired norovirus gastroenteritis in isolation ward

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Introduction

In the past few years, norovirus associated outbreaks usually started in November till January in the following year. According to the data of Centre for Health Protection, an early increase in the number of norovirus associated outbreaks has been observed since July 2012. Increased number of in-patient admission related to norovirus gastroenteritis was observed since August 2012 in United Christian Hospital (UCH). Ward 13A of UCH, serves as an isolation ward, receives patients with various infectious diseases and it is important to be proactive against this upsurge of norovirus gastroenteritis.

Objectives

To prevent hospital acquired norovirus and acute gastroenteritis outbreak.

Methodology

Strategic approach to prevent hospital acquired norovirus gastroenteritis outbreak in isolation ward was commenced in August 2012: 1. Review existing nasogastric tube feeding practice > Introduce pre-pack nasogastric tube feeding kit containing feeding bag, syringe, litmus paper, container for aspirated gastric fluid, spigot and alcohol pad, to prevent cross contamination > Properly discard all used items after each feeding session 2. Review practice on turning round > Prioritize workflow and leave the norovirus or acute gastroenteritis cases to the last case of the cubicle, as recommended by hospital infection control team > Introduce clear isolation signage for easy identification of symptomatic patients > Reinforce staff to use liquid soap and water for hand hygiene after changing napkin of diarrheal patients > Perform regular hand hygiene audit to strengthen infection control compliance

Result

No hospital acquired norovirus gastroenteritis was detected in ward since the project started. Together with the initiation of patient service enhancement, continuously updating the global situation of norovirus activity and regular hand hygiene audit should be maintained in order to upkeep the awareness of norovirus gastroenteritis in

our team.