



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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### **Enhancement of Quality Perioperative Care through Empowerment of Nurses**

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#### **Introduction**

In the old days, postoperative nursing focus mainly in reporting and execution of orders. Communications amongst disciplines mainly depends on written documentations. Through refinement and empowerment of the role of nurses at departmental level, care is delivered in a more coordinated and collaborative fashion. Working closely with various disciplines towards a more coordinated and collaborative care delivery model, postoperative morbidities are minimized. Furthermore, our program initiated a cultural change in how our staff perceives post-operative care since last year.

#### **Objectives**

To improve, coordinate multidisciplinary perioperative care To align efforts of different disciplines to the core of post-operative care including: hemodynamics, respiratory support, nutrition, mobilization.

#### **Methodology**

We assigned an Advanced Practice Nurse (Quality Improvement) (APN(QI)) to:  
Provide continued perioperative assessments through patients' recovery journeys from major surgeries. Formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate individualized perioperative nursing care plans Coordinate services and align treatment targets of different disciplines Provide clinical teaching and supervision to nurses and supporting staff on post-operative care Sharing experience and case reviews on surgical outcomes in department meetings The APN(QI) also conducts 2 clinical ward rounds(Am & PM) to patients undergoing major surgeries in all surgical wards and reports to consultant surgeons directly on patients' progress. Moreover, all our Ward APNs joined a five days refresher training in University Hospital for clinical updates on surgical post-operative nursing care as part of enablers for this cultural change. Our nursing staff participated in a survey to assess the self-confidence in provision of surgical post-operative nursing care.

#### **Result**

Over 100 patients undergoing major surgeries involved since the establishment of our APN(QI) in November 2012. Communications and coordinations between disciplines were enhanced. With aligned treatment targets and better training, care is more focused and effective. From the survey, most nursing staff expressed more confidence and supported in postoperative care of major surgical patients. Conclusion Introduction of an APN(QI) for specialized care of patients undergoing major surgery could enhance care quality. It also realized a cultural change from traditional ward-based postoperative care model towards a multidisciplinary teamwork environment of openness with empowerment of nurses in handling this sector of patients continuously through their perioperative journeys.