



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

Convention ID: 214

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UCH Environmental Assessment & Improvement on Hospital Facilities to Prevent Inpatient Fall

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Keywords:

hospital fall

Introduction

Inpatient falls has ranked amongst the top risk register in HA hospitals as it could cause unnecessary harm to patients. It is crucial to assess and periodically reassess each patient's fall risk, and take action to decrease or eliminate any identified risks (JCI, 2007). Physical hazards are often involved in patient falls. An environmental assessment or checklist can often identify modifiable risk factors to falls. Facility management, nursing and biotech staff should perform environmental rounds to confirm and improve physical hazards (Health care protocol, 2010).

Objectives

1. To identify environmental risks; 2. To plan and implement improvement measures; 3. To uphold patient safety and facilitate the reduction of patient fall incidents in hospital.

Methodology

1. An assessment team including Occupational Therapist, Facility Management and members of Task Force on Hospital Fall Prevention in UCH conducted an environmental assessment on 14 December 2011, which aimed at identifying environmental risk factors and improvement measures in hospital fall prevention. Patient toilets and bathroom facilities inspection checklist was adopted to assess toileting, bathroom areas and facilities in general wards and isolated rooms. 2. Particular attention was paid to several environmental facilities including tripping hazards, lack of handrails / grab bars, slippery surfaces, awkward reaches / storage, inadequate lighting, unstable furniture, call bell facilities in patient toilets / bathrooms, shower facilities and signage / posters. 3. Recommendations and improvement measures were identified after the environmental assessment including replacement of pull cord of call bell system / relocation of call bell system in toilets and bathrooms, posters for reminding patients to press call bell for assistance if required, installation of vertical & horizontal handrails in toilets and bathroom, installation of shower storage unit in bathrooms, installation of hanger for clothes in bathrooms, provision of shower chairs in bathrooms, installation of tap holder in bathrooms, demolition of shower / bath tub if any, improvement on lighting condition in toilets and bathrooms and

relocation of touch sensor for opening door in isolation rooms.

Result

The total number of inpatients falls was reduced from 232 in 2012 to 214 in 2013, and the fall rate was reduced from 0.74 per thousand patient bed days in 2012 to 0.65 in the year of 2013. With the effort of the team, several recommendations were completed and patient toilets and bathroom facilities in general wards and isolated rooms were improved in 2013. Besides, a standard provision of hospital facilities in patient toilets and bathroom areas in general wards and isolated rooms for hospital fall prevention was suggested to Task Force on Hospital Fall Prevention in order to decrease or eliminate any identified environmental risks.