



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Doing Right and Doing Good - Acupuncture Safety Guideline in Rehabilitation Wards

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Introduction

Acupuncture has been adopted in HA hospitals as adjunct treatment for neurological rehabilitation for years. However, incidences related to acupuncture do exist. To ensure patient safety during acupuncture treatment, an acupuncture safety guideline was setup in Surgical Department of Shatin Hospital.

Objectives

To ensure patient safety during acupuncture treatment in Surgical Department in Shatin Hospital.

Methodology

The Acupuncture Safety Guideline was setup based on multiple HA guidelines and references for physiotherapists and Chinese medicine practitioners. The guideline targets on acupuncture treatment provided by physiotherapists for study purpose and private acupuncturists as patient opted self-financed service. All treatments were provided by private acupuncturists in 2013 as no study was conducted by physiotherapist at the time being. Patient will be assessed thoroughly before approval for acupuncture. Patients have to be assessed and approved by case MO for fitness for the treatment. Absolute contraindications have to be ruled out. Consents have to be signed before the procedure. A workflow of the acupuncture treatment procedure was formulated. Acupuncturists have to strictly follow the workflow in performing acupuncture to patients. The workflow provided guidance for acupuncturists in identifying correct patient and the fitness and approval for acupuncture, counting the number of needles being applied and removed, and documenting the procedure in the Acupuncture Checklist. The procedure can only be performed with the presence of patient's relative. After the procedure, the checklist will be collected and filed by ward nurses. For any abnormalities, the acupuncturist has to report to the nurse in-charge and the case MO.

Result

From March to December 204, there were 1152 acupuncture sessions in the Surgical Department of Shatin Hospital. No incidents or adverse events related to acupuncture was reported. The incident rate was 0%. Surgical Department of Shatin Hospital provides multidisciplinary approach rehabilitation services to surgical and neurosurgical patients in the NTEC. Acupuncture was adopted as an adjunct treatment for these patients. The Acupuncture Safety Guideline provides safety measures to prevent incidents related to acupuncture therapy in the department.