



Service Priorities and Programmes
Electronic Presentations

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Patient alertness for frontline staff by using NEWS and SBAR at Department of Surgery – A pilot study

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Introduction

When patient's condition becomes deteriorate, most of the nurses are required to provide physical parameters to surgeons for assessment. However most of the juniors or trainees are inadequate experience to identify how patient's condition to get worst and what kinds of information they should provide to surgeons. The Modified Early Warning Score (MEWS) is one of most simple and faster bedside tools for nurses to early detect the potential physiological deterioration. In order to provide effective communication from frontline to nursing supervisors or doctors, SBAR communication tools was also introduced.

Objectives

To provide a holistic and safety assessment tools to detect patient's condition becomes deteriorate.

Methodology

MEWS chart was designed and replaced existing temperature and BP chart since 2008. A working group was formed on early of December 2013. Literatures were reviewed and MEWS score workflow pathway was development. The pathway exempt the case who is DNR (Do not resuscitation), under palliative care and end of life care. Schedule for MEWS score calculation was set up. Nurse can trigger call system by first notify ward nurse in-charge when the MEWS>4 or any one parameter of MEWS \geq 2 score. Then ward nurse in-charge can initiate MEWS call to House Officer or Medical Officer by using SBAR communication tools. It has been also supported by nurse supervisors on call to review if any query. One surgical ward was identified to carry out for two months trial. To enhance staff confidence in using the score, three lectures and debriefing to each of ward staff were conducted. Data from outcome measures was also collected in each shift of duty to determine the patient outcome by using the calling system in the 2 months trial for better patient

management.

Result

MEWS can alert staff awareness to detect any change of patients' condition. It can also enhance junior staff to develop their decision making skill on activate the calling system, so as to minimize the time in considering the patient is actually unwell or not. Beside both in nurses and medical staff can refocus the time in manage at risk patient with high MEWS score and enhance the effective patient management.