



**Service Priorities and Programmes**  
**Electronic Presentations**

**Convention ID:** 486

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**Fully implementation of nurse-initiative chest drain removal programme after cardiac surgery in Cardiothoracic Surgical Unit in Prince of Wales Hospital**

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**Keywords:**

Nurse initiative

Chest drain removal

**Introduction**

Early chest drains removal promotes the post-operative outcome and decreases the need for post-operative care. We have conducted a pilot of the nurse-initiative chest drain removal programme since April, 2011. The outcome of the programme was encouraging.

**Objectives**

To fully implement a nurse-initiative chest drain programme after cardiac surgery in the cardiothoracic surgical unit in Prince of Wales Hospital

**Methodology**

The cardiac nurses should be trained to remove the chest drains after theoretical input and clinical practice. They should pass both written and practical assessments before they are entitled to practice competently. They are also requested to re-new the qualification every year.

**Result**

From April, 2011 to January, 2014, nearly a thousand cardiac patients were admitted to our unit for cardiac operation. About two thousand chest drains had been removed during that period. The percentage of drains to be removed by the nurses in every month increased from 30-50% initially to over 80% recently. The common complication rates such as pneumothorax and wound infection were 1.99% and 2.39% in initial period, and in recent months the rates decreased to less than 0.8% in both. The participated nurses showed their skill in removal of chest drains competently. Conclusions: The nurse-initiative chest drain removal programme has been integrated into daily routine in our unit as it streamlines our care and promotes the patient recovery. And the result of the programme was encouraging us to deliver more advance patient-centred practice and to extend the role of cardiac nurses.