



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Do less and get more: The use of pre-packaged bath cloth for bed bathing in clinical areas

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Introduction

Daily baths for bed bound patients can maintain patients' hygiene and provide comfort skin care. However, traditional basin bath is time consuming and it can cause cross-infection in clinical areas. Daily bath with pre-packaged disposable bath cloths had been shown to reduce the risk of cross-infection when compared with the basin bath using soap and water. The addition of Chlorhexidine Gluconate (CHG) can further reduce the risk of hospital acquired infections. Therefore, the use of pre-packaged disposable bath cloths would be an effective "basinless" bathing method for bed bound patients.

Objectives

In order to promote a basinless bathing method and to enhance patient hygiene, a Task Force with representatives from various clinical departments was formed in Nov 2012 to explore the use of disposable bath cloths in Yan Chai Hospital.

Methodology

The time duration spent in using basin baths, shower baths and prepackaged bath cloths were compared in a pilot study from March to May 2013. This was followed by briefing sessions to nurses and supporting staff to enrich their knowledge and increase the awareness on hygienic standard. With an aim to enhance infection control, the addition of 2% CHG non-rinse solution into the pre-packaged bath cloth before bathing was incorporated into the guideline. The guideline was distributed to the clinical areas with bath-cloth warmer for patients' comfort. The trial study using the prepackaged bath cloths was launched in June 2013. Staff satisfaction survey was performed in Oct 2013 for evaluation and feedback was collected from the users.

Result

97% of the users commented that pre-packaged bath cloth was easy and convenient to use. More than 80% of the patients felt that their skin was clean and moisturized after using the bath cloths. There was no report of allergy reaction or adverse effect

and there was no increase of MRSA infection. Time spent in each bed bath was significantly reduced. Patients and clinical staff had expressed good satisfaction with the use of the bath cloths. In conclusion, bed baths for bed bound patients using pre-packaged disposable cloths were effective in maintaining hygiene with improved efficiency and increased staff satisfaction.