



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Strategies on preventing Injury on Duty for Patient Care Assistants in Postnatal Ward

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Introduction

Injury-on-duty (IOD) is an incident which is most commonly seen in industry and hospital. IOD increases burdening on staff morale, hospital staff manpower, requires additional diagnostic investigations and impacts on quality on patient care resulting in increased costs to the health care system. Patient Care Assistants in daily ward practice includes transferring postnatal women frequently between wards, holding babies to mothers for breastfeeding and artificial feeding. Postnatal women are at higher risk for falling following vaginal or caesarean birth, especially during initial attempts at ambulation. Every postnatal woman must be accompanied by a hospital staff initial time to toilet after delivery. Patient Care Assistants are usually the one to prevent and hold the postnatal women when falling occurs. Thus, they are the high risk group to sustain injury on duty. There were 5 IOD cases in 2010, which might have negative impact on quality of hospital service. A Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) project was launched out to promote awareness for Patient Care Assistants on IOD in postnatal ward PMH was implemented from October 2010 till now.

Objectives

(1) to implement range of strategies on preventing IOD in postnatal ward setting (2) to increase moral and safety culture in the workplace (3) to reduce IOD incident rate in postnatal ward

Methodology

Improvement interventions were used in the CQI project including encouragement on Patient Care Assistants performing 10 minutes 'stretching exercise' before duty in postnatal ward by watching 'operation health-at-work: stretching exercise' DVD which was produced by Occupational Safety and Health Council, arranging staff to attend Manual Handling Operation (MHO) workshop in facilitating the proper posture in transferring patient and communication skill on patient transfer by safety device, providing MHO video to increase staff's awareness on importance on occupational health and safety.

Result

Results: Number of IOD cases has significant decreased. Only 1 incident has been

reported in 2012 and 2013 in postnatal ward after the implementation of CQI project since 2010. Positive feedback was received from ward staff after commencing improvement intervention. Conclusions: Performing 'stretching exercise' before work may be reduced IOD incident and sick leave, increased staff morale and job satisfaction. Quality of patient care can be enhanced.