



Service Priorities and Programmes
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Ambulatory Orthopaedic Service: A New Bottle with Old Wine?

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Introduction

Ambulatory care is not new to hospital authority. When executed effectively with minimal disturbance of daily clinical duty, its impact can be huge. Ambulatory Orthopaedic Service (AOS) was introduced to our department in 2012 and its effect on the service clinical index was evaluated.

Objectives

To evaluate the effect of ambulatory orthopaedic care on clinical service.

Methodology

Ambulatory Orthopaedic Service (AOS) centre was set up in Department of Orthopaedic and Traumatology in September 2012. Its impact on the service KPI was evaluated.

Result

From September 2012 to December 2013, there were 3156 attendances to our AOS centre. 1897 attendances were related to simple therapeutic and assessment procedure including physiotherapy, occupational therapy and wound care service which precluded continuous admission. 788 pre-operative assessments were also performed. As a result, the percentage of day surgery and same day surgery increased up to 80% by November 2013. The average length of stay was decreased by 16% and number of patients day by 9% after the set up of the AOS. The unplanned readmission rate remained low as 3.2% despite the above improvements. Conclusion By adjusting the mode of service delivery without major disturbance of patients, doctors, nurses and other paramedical staffs' routine, Ambulatory Orthopaedic Service could be executed effectively to alleviate the shortage of in-patient bed service.