Service Priorities and Programmes

Electronic Presentations

Convention ID: 628
Submitting author: Miss Hsiao Wah WONG
Post title: Advanced Practice Nurse, Tseung Kwan O Hospital, KEC

Risk reduction program on sharp instruments handling after minor surgical procedures

Wong HW (1), Hui EPH(1), Law SC(1)
(1)Department of Orthopaedics and Gynaecology, Tseung Kwan O Hospital

Keywords:
Sharps injury
Safe practice

Introduction

The safe handling and disposal of sharp instruments is significant to protect nurses, supporting staff and patients from exposure to blood-borne pathogens. Prevention of needle-stick injuries has been widespread promoted. However, prevention and education on potential sharps injury related to minor surgical procedures in ward seems less mentioned. Moreover, there are new comers (nurses and patient care assistances) and rotation of staff, they may not familiar with instruments of sets, after care and safety proper handling of sharp instruments after minor surgical procedure clinically. Therefore, a safer system of work should be implemented to protect them from such sharps injury.

Objectives

(1) Enhance occupational safety by reducing the risk of sharps injury to all ranks of staff (2) Strength staff risk alertness in daily nursing practices

Methodology

Preliminary work started from Mid-July. A photo booklet was produced to introduce common use of sets during minor surgical procedures in ward. The contents of the set, names of instruments, potential use of sharp instruments and its proper disposal methods were marked with photos. Briefing and training was given to all staff included nursing staff and patient care assistances (PCA) in safety skills in sharps handling. In-housing rule,including roles of nursing staff and PCA,in post-procedure care and counter-check & counter-sign system were set up.

Result

The program implemented from mid-August to December, 2014. Total 16 cases were performed minor surgical procedures in ward. It was average 3-6 cases per month. 17 sets were used. Suture set was the most commonly use (7 times),followed Cut down

set (6 times) and Simple procedure set (4 times) respectively. The demand of syringe (44 times) and needle (39 times) was large. Both were needed to use every time. Usage of stitches and blades were 14 times and 8 times respectively. No sharps were retained in used sets and no related sharps injury (IOD) reported. Number of instruments of each set was accurate before sending to sterilization unit in record. Minor surgical procedures were not uncommon performing in ward. Different of sharp instruments were used in certain of amounts. A safer system of work in proper handling of sharp instruments was significant and effective to protect all ranks of staff in ward and sterilization unit in avoidance of related sharps injury.