



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Efficacy of an Ambulatory Orthopaedic Emergency Service (AOES) in Kwong Wah Hospital

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Introduction

Ambulatory Orthopaedic Emergency Service (AOES) renders the use of multi-disciplinary approach with provision of minor procedure and intervention in the Ambulatory Orthopaedic Service (AOS) Centre. Night time non-limb threatening injuries will be triaged with subsequent treatment scheduled in a semi-elective manner. The nurse notably acts as a case manager to liaise with different health service providers and departments in order to coordinate the service and as a result, significant reduction of overnight hospitalization was achieved which in return, saved a substantial amount of healthcare expenditure.

Objectives

To evaluate the effectiveness of AOE on the reduction of hospital admission.

Methodology

Ambulatory Orthopaedic Emergency Service (AOES) was set up in Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Kwong Wah Hospital in June 2015. Its impact on the service KPI was evaluated.

Result

From June 2015 to December 2015, the result revealed that there were 178 attendances to our AOES. 77.5% (138) of the patients with upper limb minor injuries (eg. laceration, tendon cut, and crush injuries) had undergone minor operations under local anesthetics in the AOS. Besides, some of patients were referred to the related therapists, wound care nurses before attending SOPD for subsequent follow-up. 22.5% (40) of patients with close upper limb trauma (eg. fracture, and dislocation of joint) were also triaged to the service for subsequent care. Altogether only 25.8% (46) of these patients were admitted to in-patient ward for further treatment (eg. emergency operation required, further investigation and management for their medical problems). The average length of stay for upper limb minor injuries in the last year was 1.4 days. After the establishment of AOES, all this patient group could be

discharged on the same day without stay overnight. By adjusting the mode of service delivery without major disturbance of patient, doctor, nurse and other paramedical staffs' routine, Ambulatory Orthopaedic Emergency Service could be executed effectively to alleviate the shortage of in-patient bed service with reducing the rate of unnecessary admission and hospitalization.