



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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### **Reinforcement of Medication Administration Safety in Operating Theatre**

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#### **Introduction**

It is common for surgeons to verbally order medications for patients during operation. Surgeons in different specialties have different practice and preferences. On top of the "three checks five rights" principles for medication administration, operating theatre (OT) nurses must be familiar with the special mixing and dilution method and administration of medications on sterile field. Nurses should also be familiar with the common dosage and concentration of medications used in different specialties to avoid communication errors due to verbal order.

#### **Objectives**

1. To gather information on the preference of commonly used medication for different specialties and organise them in a standard format for easy reference. 2. To formulate a standardised cue card about the medication mixture in TMH OT to increase the efficiency and ensure safety in medication mixing, dilution and administration intra-operatively. 3. To ensure theatre nurses are familiar with the medication dilution, concentration and administration route in OT.

#### **Methodology**

Information on commonly used medication during operation for different specialties was gathered from specialty nurses. The information include medication type, dosage, dilution or mixing method, and administration route. A cue card in standardised format was then formulated and put in every theatre for easy reference. Briefing to all OT nurses was carried out to ensure that all nurses including the newly graduated ones know the location of the cue cards and understand the information contained in them.

#### **Result**

Since the implementation of the medication preparation cue cards, no more incidents regarding medication use on sterile field during operation has been reported. Nurses in the theatre, even not previously trained in the specific specialty, are able to dilute and administer the requested medication efficiently with reference to the cue cards. Nurses could also be more assertive and confident in clarifying the dosage with surgeons when in doubts.