



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Enhancing effective clinical handover by implementing Burn External Referral form

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Introduction

Burns Centre, Prince of Wales Hospital is one of referral center for Major and extensive burn cases in Hong Kong. It develops coordination of burn service with their supporting network of Burn Facilities. Also, Burn cases from cross-territory and cross centre were consulted and transferred to the Centre for further intensive management. Therefore, a Burn External Referral form was designed to enable comprehensive and effective handover process.

Objectives

With implementation of Burn External Referral form, we aim at the followings: -
Essential information was received before the burn patients were transferred to Burn Centre - Written guidance was provided to staff of referring hospitals for managing acute burn - Referred burn patients received acute assessment and management safely before transfer to the Centre

Methodology

A comprehensive Burn External Referral form was established with discussion of Burn team. Essential mandatory items and interventions for acute burn were printed on the form, include: Burn distribution, fluid challenge with formula, airway assessment, limbs circulation assessment, chemical burn treatment and treatment given prior transfer, etc. Burn team and on call Plastic team Surgeons were briefed on the workflow of using this form: a written communication for handover. On the other hand, auditing on compliance of the form was evaluated by using the checklist.

Result

During Aug. 2014 to Aug. 2015, total 49 numbers of burn referred cases were received and 49 nos. of Burn External Referral forms were audited. Result showed 87.5% documented the mechanism of Burn injury while only 47% showed correct assessment on the area of burn injury. Also, 98% and 93.9% indicated the burn patient's airway and limb circulation had been examined before transferred respectively. Only 75% acknowledged the need for tetanus prophylaxis prescription. The results were disseminated in the related Burn conferences. The use of Burn External Referral form provided guidance to doctors and nurses of referring hospitals

on management and stabilization of burn patients. Essential information was received for preparation for admission in Burns Centre. But there still need for improvement in evaluating area of burn injury which affects the treatment regime especially for extensive burn.