



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

**Convention ID:** 571

**Submitting author:** Dr TSZ KIN NG

**Post title:** Associate Consultant, Kwong Wah Hospital, KWC

### **What Can Family Medicine Specialist Clinic (FMSC) Do and How It Helps to Shorten the Waiting Time of Hospital Orthopedic Specialist Outpatient Clinic (SOPC)?**

*Ng TK(1), Chan KW(1), Lau PS(1), Lai PY(1), Cheung MY(1), Luk W(1), Yiu YK(1)  
Family Medicine and Primary Health Care, Kowloon West Cluster*

#### **Keywords:**

family medicine doctor with special interest in orthopedic medicine  
musculoskeletal medicine  
shorten  
waiting time of orthopedic outpatient clinic

#### **Introduction**

The waiting time had long been a problem in the SOPC of public hospital. Ninety percent of routine appointments in KWC orthopedic SOPC are more than 100 weeks. In UK, GP offices run by general practitioner with special interest to manage cases referred to Orthopedic SOPC had been developed and found to be successful in reducing the workload of secondary care in public hospital. We started a similar FMSC service to manage musculoskeletal cases in KWC since 2010

#### **Objectives**

1) To introduce the special services provided by FMSC 2) To evaluate the performance of the FMSC by statistics review

#### **Methodology**

Cases referred to the orthopedic SOPCs of KWC were screened by orthopedic consultants. Suitable cases were triaged to the FMSC of KWC. FM doctors with special interest in orthopedic medicine had received training in this field beforehand. FMSC doctors had same access to investigation tools as hospital specialists. Bedside musculoskeletal ultrasound imaging was available to aid doctor in making diagnosis. FMSC doctors had the right to referral to allied health professionals. A special one-stop FMSC-allied health service was set up to provide physiotherapy & occupational therapy for selected patients on the same day of their first FMCS attendance. FMSC doctors also prescribed home exercises and perform simple manual therapy for common musculoskeletal problems at the bedside. For some selected cases, injection procedures would be done. Difficult cases would be referred back to hospital specialist with shortened waiting time. We reviewed the statistics of cases triaged from the orthopedic SOPCs of KWC to KWC-FMSC

#### **Result**

In 2015, 1649 cases were triaged to the FMSC and 1333 cases had attended (attendance rate 81%). The average waiting time for first FMSC consultation was 16

weeks. On average the cases were closed after 1.8 consultation sessions. 18% of cases needed referral back to SOPC for further management while 4% of the cases was referred to GOPC for follow up