



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Care Enhancement Program of “Color-coded Meal Tray System” for assisted-feeding

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Introduction

Food and nutrition are vital aspects of care. Our hospital is committed to ensuring patients enjoy meal with support safely. However, during the meal serving time, staff is busy in dealing with ward routine jobs, intervening patient care and clinical handover. They tend to hurry in distributing the meal, preparing patient position, and feed patient within a very short period. In January of 2016, Nutrition and Food Service Committee agrees the adoption of “Red Tray system” in Protected Mealtimes Policy from NHS Foundation Trust, it enhances a framework for best practice at mealtime.

Objectives

- To act as a visible indicator for vulnerable patients who are ‘at risk’ in self-feeding or need individual assistance to eat and drink
- To support staff to have fast access of patients’ feeding and nutritional needs at meal time
- To fasten the mealtime but more focus attention on safe feeding

Methodology

- Before seeking extra funding to purchase Red Tray, in the pilot phase, the committee agrees to use existing Green tray for patient who needs extra attendance and Beige tray for independent patient.
- No extra budget is reserved in the enhancement, as Beige color tray is currently in use, and a sum of Green color tray is available at Catering Department.
- On admission or transfer, patient who are likely to be at risk are identified, include swallow difficulties after using the screening test, poor nutrition or intake, slow eaters, physical disabilities in self-feeding
- Through eDCMS, ward staff can ease to implement the system by clicking the check box “協助餵食” at “Diet Order Entry Screen” after patient assessment.

Till January 2017, the system is piloted in 3 extended care wards, an Emergency medical ward (EMW), 3 Medical acute wards and 2 Surgical wards respectively.

Result

On time checking, the average time in finding patient to assist feeding is decreased from 8.3 mins to 6.9 mins, actually the decrease rate is 16.8%. Pre & post time checking on the system is recorded and questionnaire on 125 staff feedback is evaluated. 72% of respondents agree the color-coded system not adding extra workload to them, the colour is ease to differentiate, 76% support it serves as vulnerable patient identification. Despite of 32.5% nurses agree with the advantage of the color-coded system, 60% care-related supporting staff really appreciate and support such improvement. The system is feasible to extend to other specialties in 2017.