



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Enhanced Collaboration Program between Orthopedic SOPD and Family Medicine Clinic

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Shorten

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Early Patient Care

Enhance Quality of Care

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Introduction

With the growing population, the number of first attendant to SOPD is increasing. From the past date, over 8000 new cases per year were seen in ortho SOPD. Around 75% of them are minor problem and nearly half of these new referrals can be discharged after first consultation. That unnecessary referrals are resulted in an increased waiting time for a routine case in ortho SOPD (90th percentile -108 weeks from Oct 15-Sep 16). Part of the underlying reason is due to patient high expectation, and partly because of the uncertainty of the primary physician about the treatment rationale of common orthopedic problem. With the establishment of a better collaboration between orthopedic surgeon and FM physician, we hope that we can strengthen the gateway function of primary care service.

Objectives

To minimize unnecessary referral from FM clinic to Ortho SOPD

To shorten the new case waiting time in the orthopedic specialist clinic

To provide the comprehensive and early patient care in Ortho/FM joint clinic

To enhance FM service and quality of care

Methodology

A New Monthly Pilot Clinic was started between QMH(Ortho) and SYP FM Clinic in September 2016. Patients mainly suffered from low back pain and knee pain from SYP FM clinic who were potential referred to QMH(Ortho) SOPD clinic were seen by a Consultant or Associate Consultant from (ortho)QMH together with specialist from FM clinic. A Rationale of orthopedic treatment plan was discussed among three parties

and patients will stay in GOPC/ FM clinic for further follow up and management. Only potential surgical candidate will refer to ortho SOPD for further management.

Result

5 sessions of Conjoint clinic were carried out since September 2016 in SYP FM clinic. 37 potential referred patients were assessed. 26 (70%) patients were kept in GOPC/FM clinic for follow up. Only 9(30%) patients required referral to ortho SOPD or further management.

Patient satisfaction and Quality of Primary Care were expected to improve with time.