



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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2D Barcode Wristband for Unique Patient Identification in Accident and Emergency Department of Pok Oi Hospital

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Introduction

Patient mis-identification is often encountered in the Accident and Emergency Department (AED) due to its over-crowded environment, high patients' turn-over rate and lots of life-saving emergency procedures. We treasure correct patient identification as it is one of the most fundamental ways in fostering patient safety and the quality of care. Pok Oi Hospital (POH) is the third Accident & Emergency Department in Hong Kong to implement the 2D barcode patient wristband system.

Objectives

To enhance correct patient identification on specimen collection by implementing 2D barcode wristband to all patients who attended the Accident & Emergency Department in POH.

Methodology

Since 16th December 2016, all POH AED patients would wear a 2D barcode wristband upon triage. The triage nurse is responsible for checking patient's identity using core identifiers (i.e. the name and the identity card number) before applying the wristband to patients. It facilitates various procedures including blood taking and specimen collection. It helps to reduce the incidence of patient mis-identification because the specimen label would not be generated if there is mis-match between patient's wristband and specimen job sheet as identified by the 2D barcode scanner. In order to facilitate implementation of 2D barcode wristband program, various educational materials, including the teaching video, are provided to our colleagues to familiarize the correct procedure of applying the wristband to patients and generating the specimen labels.

Result

There is no problem of applying the wristband to patients upon triage or collecting patients' specimen. There is so far zero incidence of patient mis-identification of blood

or other specimen collection in our emergency department.

The implementation of 2D barcode wristband to all patients attending POH AED was carried out smoothly in our department and it helps to enhance correct patient identification in our department.

In future, the application of 2D barcode wristband system could be expanded to other aspects, for example distributing drugs sheet, referral letter or sick leave certificates upon patient disposal. It may be incorporated into the electronic medication system of drug administration to patient in AED.