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User Re-designed Handling Belt for Transfer and Ambulatory Training Project - Promoting Patient Safety & Comfort with Enhanced Staff Engagement & OSH

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Introduction

Patient safety and comfort in ambulation and transfer training are prime standards in the process of physiotherapy service. Handling belts are used to assist the development of mobility and rehabilitation for clients who are minimally dependent, have weight bearing capacity and are cooperative. Clinical applications include bed to chair, chair to chair and chair to car transfers, repositioning clients in chairs, and supporting clients while walking. Despite recommendation of using handling belts in Manual Handling Operation (MHO) guideline for staff Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), there is lack of data on the acceptance of handling belts by healthcare practitioner in clinical practice. This is the first known study ever conducted to review the design of existing available handling belts and their usage in local clinical setting.

Objectives

1) To promote patient safety and comfort in ambulation and transfer training with user re-designed transfer belts 2) To enhance staff engagement & OSH for improved compliance in using assisting mobility device

Methodology

Professional staff peer review on various models of handling belts was conducted in May 2016. Staff feedback and suggestions on handling belts design were collected to improve patient safety and comfort. This Staff Engagement CQI Project was funded by the Hospital Accreditation Budget of Kowloon Hospital. The improved designed transfer belts (including robust buckle lock, extended length of adhesive belt, additional non-slippery patch on the inner side of belt) product supply was ready in November 2016. Staff briefing and training sessions were conducted to facilitate the change of patient care process, quality assurance and to align the practice standards. There will be plans of Staff Satisfaction Survey and Compliance Audit to evaluate the CQI project.

Result

Clinically, the improved design handling belts provided better patient support and comfort in ambulation and transfer training. The enhancement had specifically addressed patient safety in the prevention of fall and staff OSH in manual handling. In this CQI process, staff were engaged actively in the peer review, preparation and training resulting in higher OSH awareness and possibly subsequent staff engagement and compliance in work.