



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

**Convention ID:** 541

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### **Practical Skill Training and Refreshment Program for Electro-physical Agents in Physiotherapy Departments of Kowloon Central Cluster**

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#### **Keywords:**

Physiotherapy

Electro-physical Agents

Practical Skill Training

#### **Introduction**

Electro-physical agents (EPAs) are those modalities that administer thermal, mechanical, electro-magnetic, electrical and light energy to provide physiological effects and therapeutic benefits for patients. To provide high quality health care service, physiotherapists (PT) must undertake regular continuing professional development, with a strategy to integrate current best available evidence into clinical practice. Understanding the indication and contraindication of various EPAs, choosing appropriate positioning, techniques, and dosage would ensure treatment effectiveness, and patients' safety. Besides, proper documentation on treatment parameters would guarantee continuity of patient care and provide effective monitoring on treatment progression. Therefore, Physiotherapy Departments of Kowloon Central Cluster (KCC) organized a Practical Skill Training and Refreshment Program for EPAs for PT in 2016.

#### **Objectives**

The aims of this program were to help newly qualified PT to consolidate and senior PT to refresh the skills in operating various EPAs in Physiotherapy Departments of KCC.

#### **Methodology**

Practical training workshops were conducted for PT in KCC from July to September 2016. The workshops covered the clinical application of various EPAs, with emphasis on proper positioning, standard operating procedures, and documentation of parameters. The trainer team, formed by experienced PT, was responsible for developing standardized training materials, demonstrating EPAs application, and monitoring and assessing staff performance. Based on the standardized assessment criteria list, performance of individual participant was evaluated. Immediate feedback and remedial training were given to those who failed to fulfill all the listed criteria. Re-assessment was given after the remedial training. Post-workshop evaluation survey was conducted to gauge the overall appropriateness and effectiveness of the

program.

**Result**

149 PT staff participated in this program, of which 83% of them fulfilled all the assessment criteria. The remaining 17% eventually achieved all the assessment criteria after immediate top-up training. Over 95% of the participants agreed that the content was clinically relevant, and the objectives of this program were achieved. Majority of them expressed 'Strongly Agree' or 'Agree' on trainers' preparation, motivation to participants, as well as presentation skills. In summary, all participants satisfied with the program. The results demonstrated that this EPAs training program helped to refresh and consolidate the knowledge of PT colleagues in various EPAs application.