



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Comprehensive wound review pathway for post-cardiac surgery patients

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Introduction

Surgical site infection (SSI) is a devastating complications following cardiac surgery, which would lead to prolonged hospitalization, increased readmission rate and hospital costs.

The development of SSI post cardiac surgery often has a delayed onset and is difficult to be detected before discharge.

Therefore, a comprehensive wound review pathway was implemented in our unit.

This program was designed for (1) identifying the potential late onset wound infection in high risk groups (e.g. DM, obesity, renal disease), (2) providing wound management for patients suffer from confirmed SSI. Doctors and wound nurses collaborated in reviewing and designing a comprehensive wound care plan according to wound condition on weekly basis. Appropriate treatment could also be provided at once when abnormalities were detected. Under this program, both potential and confirmed SSI cases can be allowed early discharge safely.

Objectives

(1) To shorten the length of stay and reduce hospitalization cost among post cardiac surgery patients with wound problems

(2) To enhance patient's satisfaction level

(3) Early detection of delayed onset wound infection

(4) To reduce nosocomial infections rate

Methodology

Comprehensive wound review pathway started at February 2016. Patient satisfaction level questionnaire was designed. Patients with more than three ward follow ups attendances were recruited. Questionnaire is focusing on their satisfaction level on time, place, reviewing process, health care professional technique, materials used, and the wound healing process after wound review. Two open-ended questions were set for them to review their willingness to come back for review.

Result

From February 2016 to September 2016, total patient head count was 110 with zero default rates. 7 patients were recruited to fill out the questionnaire. 6 out of them rated agree and strongly agree on all aspects of the questionnaire. That mean they were satisfied on our arrangement. Furthermore, in the open-ended questions, some expressed comprehensive wound review pathway providing them the other choice besides hospitalization.