



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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The Red Green Light for the Elderly

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Introduction

In January 2016, an elderly patient fell while waiting for the only single male toilet in EMW. He sustained intracranial hemorrhage after the fall. Later, it was found that he was waiting for a vacant toilet. Elderly patient could hardly see the indicator on door (red/ green spot) with blurred eyes or in dim light environment. Therefore, a clear signage, preferably can be seen from remote, may be helpful to prevent fall injury in ward setting with limited number of toilets.

Objectives

To facilitate patient waiting for toilet on bed to prevent fall

Methodology

A light box typed toilet availability indicator (similar to toilet signage on flight) was installed in Dec 2016. The system is triggered simultaneously by: 1) motion sensor; 2) trigger point on door frame.

Result

There was neither queue nor fall incident reported after the works. However, this outcome measure may not be reliable due to the short period of observation (as on 7 February 2017). Therefore, a questionnaire was designed to collect patients' feedback. 25 questionnaires were collected for data analysis. 80% patients noticed the existence of the light box without notification. After being informed, 100% considered it good and useful. Other comments included 1) excellent for elderly patient; 2) very clear words; 3) convenient, can see from remote and wait for toilet on bed & 4) advanced technology. Other suggestions were: 1) use graphic instead of words; 2) 無人 is better than 空置. At present, the author cannot tell it is effectiveness in fall prevention. However, patient satisfaction seems assured and briefing upon admission may help patient understand.