Standardized Pre-operative Management: Pre-print progress notes for same day admission operations
Kwok LH, Yu HYH, Ng ML, Ng LKM
Department of Surgery, Ruttonjee & Tang Shiu Kin Hospitals

Introduction
With the successful implementation of pre-print progress notes for colonoscopy, the workgroup extended the use of pre-print progress notes to some common same day admission elective operations. The pre-print progress notes standardized the format of nursing and medical pre-operative management for same day admission patients. The design of the operation pre-print progress notes aims to ensure the safety of pre-operative care, and to improve time efficiency and proper documentation.

Objectives
Our objective focused on standardization of documentation and completeness of patients’ assessment. The pre-print progress notes should also be friendly to use and time saving in order to help our frontline staff to reduce their workload. In additions, the pre-print progress notes can enhance the legibility of documentation and give an example for the junior staff to follow.

Methodology
The workgroup first identified the high volume and on same day admission operations in Surgery Department: Hernia Repair, Varicose Vein Procedures and Transurethral Resection of Prostate (TURP). The medical team and nursing team worked together and finalized the management process in nursing and medical aspect. The day admission elective operation pre-print progress notes was designed and introduced in August 2016. The project was first piloted in the male surgical ward on August 2016, covering the three identified operations. After two months of pilot use, all nursing and medical staff in A8 were invited to respond to the questionnaires. We also retrieve the patients’ notes to conduct a compliance check to see if there is any area that we can improve.

Result
After implementing, medical and nursing staffs generally saved two-third of time to complete documentation respectively.
All staffs agree the pre-print progress notes is time-saving, user-friendly and promote the completeness of documentation. 95% of them agree the form improves legibility and standardization of documentation. Only 9% of staffs do not wish to continue the use of the pre-print notes. 64% of them would like to add more types of operations in the future.

Compliance rate of using the pre-print notes were high, around 82%. However, there was some incompleteness in filling the notes such as missing record on patient’s general condition (stable or fair) in the nursing progress. Significant improvements in staff’s level of satisfaction and efficiency were found in evaluation.

Time to complete documentation was significantly improved. Front-line staffs welcome the implementation of pre-print progress notes for same day admission for elective operations. It significantly saves time and improves legibility of documentation. However, the limitations included the incomplete documentation. The incompleteness is mainly due to missing record on patient’s general condition (stable or fair) in the nursing progress. Modification of note design is contemplated by the workgroup.