



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Evaluate the practice of informed consent by auditing and assessing patient's understanding

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Introduction

Objectives

Informed Consent is an integral part of medical practice and also a legal requirement. It works as a safeguard of patient's rights and minimizes the chances of legal action in case of any complication arising from the proposed therapy. Therefore, it is important to provide adequate information to patient and to document in the consent form properly. This program aims to promote the appropriate practice of written informed consent in accordance with the standard of HAHO and HKEC, and ensure its compliance.

Methodology

The Informed Consent working group was established in June 2015. Cluster briefing session and hospital education forums were held in 2015 in order to enhance staffs' understanding. Audit was conduct from 1 Nov 2015 to 31 Jan 2016, in order to evaluate the completeness and appropriateness of written informed consent and study patient's understanding before undertaking operation or procedure. 60 medical records were randomly selected and reviewed by auditors for its completion and quality. 60 patients or their family members were invited to self-administer the questionnaire in out-patient department after he had given informed consent for operation or procedure.

Result

For the completeness and appropriateness of written informed consent, the overall compliance was 90.7%. 80% (N=48) used pre-typed consent form. 71.7% (N=43) with witness involved during the consent process. All consent forms for the type of procedures or operations were appropriately used (100%, N=60).

On assessing patients' level of understanding an dsatisfaction on the informed consent process, 86.6% (N=52) patients self-administered the questionnaires while

13.3% (N=8) were completed by patient's family members. The overall mean score was 4.6 (out of 5). Patients' level of understanding on the content and duration of informed consent being discussed were satisfactory.