



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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### **A Safe Escort Programme for Paediatric Patients**

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#### **Introduction**

Paediatric patients are frequently escorted to other institutions for necessary interventions. Safety is the top priority. Whilst guidelines and forms existed in different paediatric departments, an established paediatric transport programme is currently lacking. Patient escorts involved different levels of risks depend on the underlying diagnosis, hemodynamic status and the transport arrangement. Timing of transfer, pre-transfer treatment, preparation and risk management are vitally important to enhance patient safety. Over the years, our department has been refining our paediatric transport programme to meet this goal.

#### **Objectives**

A multi-disciplinary safe escort group, consisted of medical and nursing staff, was set up in 2015 to overlook the safe escort programme. The aims were: (1) To develop clinical risk management and quality improvement strategies. (2) To monitor and review quality improvement and risk reduction measures. (3) To provide relevant education and training.

#### **Methodology**

The group develops transport guidelines, forms and checklists for various disease categories. That includes transport consideration guidelines for various conditions, transport checklists, standardized referral letter and audit form. Transport cases are reviewed in regular and ad-hoc meetings. Relevant educational debriefing notes will be produced for staff empowerment. Audits on various aspects of patient transport are conducted for service quality improvement. The group also leads intra-department training sessions and conducted regular training drills. The group also supports other clinical departments, such as accident and emergency department, in paediatric safe escort issues.

#### **Result**

Our model of safe escort programme aims at enhancing safety in the transport process in a regional hospital. The whole transport process will be streamlined and standardized. We also hope to improve staff competence and compliance to the

guidelines. With the development of Hong Kong Children's Hospital (HKCH), timely and safe patient transfer process will play a pivotal role in its service provision. A comprehensive and robust paediatric transport programme shall be developed in the future.