



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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The Suture Team - Keep the Minimal to Attain the Most

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Introduction

Sutures are essential items in nearly every operation. There are countless types of different sutures of various brands for surgeons to choose from. However, it is impossible to keep stock of too many suture items in every theatre to cater the need of different operations and preference of different surgeons. It is an art to keep adequate stocks of various suture in the operating theatres (OT) and to maintain a systematic record for staff to locate specific sutures efficiently.

Objectives

Special suture items were kept in a store outside the theatre of different floors. Without a systematic storage system and a master record of special suture stocks, staff may not fetch the items requested by surgeon efficiently. In the worst scenario, the staff may be wasting time running between floors in searching for an item that was not kept in our department at all. With the formation of a suture team, suture items were more well organised to facilitate daily operation. Wastage of suture due to overstocking or expiration was also largely reduced.

Methodology

A suture team was formed and all suture items kept in OT were reviewed and revised after discussion with nurses responsible for different specialties. As some theatres are specialised for specific surgeries, the suture racks in every theatre was updated and revised so that a minimal stock of commonly used suture items were kept in theatre to facilitate routine checking and minimize wastage due to expiration. Special suture racks kept in stores at different floors were also reorganized and labelled systematically with metal clips on each suture box. Members of the suture teams were responsible for tidying and expiry date checking of special suture items to further safeguard that the rarely used items were kept at a reasonable stock level and were not expired.

Result

A minimal yet comprehensive stock of various sutures were kept in OT. Wastage due to overstocking or expiration were largely reduced. With a systematic location code and an updated master record kept in each theatre, nurses are able to get special

suture items efficiently. With the master record in hand, nurses could also promptly suggest surgeons similar items in case the requested item is not kept in our OT.