



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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A Three-Year Retrospective Study on Wheelchair Prescription Service

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Introduction

Wheelchairs not only can help people with severe physical disability to enhance their mobility, independence, expand their social circles, but also alleviate the stress of their caregivers. There is an increasing trend for wheelchair prescriptions and related home care services delivered by the Physiotherapy Department of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH). Data of the patients' profiles, clinical outcomes and their satisfaction level can assist the Department to evaluate the service performance and to have more accurate resource planning and forecast.

Objectives

This study aimed to provide descriptive information pertaining to wheelchair prescription services provided and the service outcomes.

Methodology

All out-patient and community physiotherapy records related to referrals for wheelchair prescription between January 2013 and December 2015 were reviewed retrospectively. Data retrieved included referral information, patient characteristics, types of service provided, and the patient's self-reported outcomes.

Result

Forty-two wheelchair prescription referrals were received (9 in 2013, 10 in 2014 and 23 in 2015). The patients' age ranged from 6 to 94 years old (age \leq 14 years: 3%, 15-24: 6%, 25-34: 3%, 35-44: 14%, 45-54: 10%, 55-64: 24% and \geq 65: 40%).

Referred diagnoses included musculoskeletal disorders (62%), motor dysfunction (28%) and cardiorespiratory diseases (10%). Reasons for referrals included compromised lower limb function (45%), wheelchair or accessories problems (26%), increased fall risk (15%), cardiovascular problem (7%), and pain (7%). Physiotherapy interventions included 42 needs assessments, 31 wheelchair prescriptions, 26 funding applications, 16 home visits, 8 caregiver trainings, 6 home modifications and 4 wheelchair-accessories replacements. Among the 31 wheelchairs prescribed, 12 were transport-wheelchairs, 11 self-propelled wheelchairs and 8 power wheelchairs. All the patients reported improved social reintegration after wheelchair fitting, with

71%, 16% and 13% of patients resumed daily, weekly and needy-based activities respectively. All patients and their caregivers reported satisfaction with our wheelchair services.