



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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### **“OT Green Team” in Promoting Patient Recovery and Green Culture in Kowloon Hospital**

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#### **Introduction**

Recycling service of Occupational Therapy (OT) Department has been running since 2008. It includes collection of general and confidential waste paper from different wards and departments of Kowloon Hospital (KH). Recyclates are then collected by the recycling companies. The aim of the service is to create more work training opportunities to the psychiatric patients who are attending OT as well as to support the hospital to handle the waste paper more properly. However, with increased interests and concern of our staff and patients on waste reduction and environmental protection and the application of the Recovery approach to our psychiatric patients in the rehabilitation process, the OT recycling service was recently reformed and renamed as “OT Green Team”.

#### **Objectives**

1. To enhance the quality service of Recycle Service of OT in KH 2. To apply the Recovery approach to our psychiatric patients in the rehabilitation process

#### **Methodology**

Since July of 2014, the “OT Green Team” not only collects waste paper but also collects metal waste, plastic waste and food waste. The team also produces various recycled and reused products. Psychiatric patients in OT Department are involved in collecting the recycling waste, producing the recycled products as well as promoting the green culture for both staff and patients in the hospital. Recycled theme related activities and projects are also incorporated as significant OT treatment modalities for our psychiatric patients in the recovery framework.

#### **Result**

The “OT Green Team” has been collecting a variety of waste including general used paper, confidential paper, used envelopes, plastic bottles, aluminum cans and food waste from different wards and departments in the hospital. The team has collected 21061 kg general paper waste and 17871 kg confidential paper waste in 2014/15. Apart from sending the waste to the recycling companies, the “OT Green Team” starts to produce recycled and reused products. The recycled paper products include

recycled papers which are used for patients' art & craft activities; recycled memo pads converted from single-sided used papers and reused envelopes. These products are then distributed to different wards and departments for usage. Moreover, food wastes are converted into the compost and different eco-enzyme end products like liquid fertilizer, detergent and shampoo, etc. The plastic pumping bottles used for alcohol-based hand rub and liquid hand soap are also collected and converted as containers of our eco-enzyme products. Moreover, the team is planning to use fallen tree leaves collected in hospital to recycle into compost for plants and garden use in hospital. Since February of 2015, the compost and various eco-enzyme end products are open for sale in OT department, all the income is used for the operation of our Green Team and further development of Green Industry. Because of the extended scope of the green industry, work training opportunities to psychiatric patients are significantly increased. Interest groups and classes on recycled paper production as well as art & craft activities with use of recycled papers are held regularly in OT department. Patients are also empowered to act as peer tutor by using their strength in the "Strength Sparkles" projects to teach other patients how to make recycling products. Youth volunteers also participate in these "green" activities with the patients. To conclude, the "OT Green Team" promotes a green culture to patients and staff in the hospital as well as facilitates the recovery process of the psychiatric patients receiving OT. Further detailed evaluation of the service from both patients and staff on these activities may be needed in the future.