

Wound Care Kit for Home Visits

Team Members

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The Wound Care Kit provides a standardised list of essential wound care products for treatment during home care visits, reducing delays and improving staff efficiency.

Problem statement

Thye Hua Kwan Nursing Home (THKNH) Home Care team provides home-based medical and nursing care to home-bound patients, most of whom are elderly or bed-bound. During initial visits, the team observed that most patients either did not have enough wound care products for use, as these products were expired and/or incompatible for use. This resulted in treatment being delayed until the next visit, resulting in extra workload for home care staff and unnecessary additional expenses. Patients faced multiple barriers in obtaining wound care products, such as difficulty of movement due to old age, disability and medical comorbidities, inadequate knowledge on the types of wound care products to be purchased, language barriers, cost, as well as unfamiliarity or a lack of awareness with purchasing these products online. There was an urgent need to provide the correct wound care products during visits to these patients to avoid treatment delay.

Kit Design

To cater better to patients' needs, THKNH Home Care team teamed up with Healing Hub Pharmacy @ Ang Mo Kio – Thye Hua Kwan Hospital to create the Wound Care Kit – a collection of commonly required wound care products that was easy to carry and use during home visits.

To do so, a list of medical and accessory dressing that were deemed to be essential and commonly used for wound treatment during home visits was formulated by the THKNH team based on past experience with patients. Based on the list provided and knowledge from pharmacists, Healing Hub provided recommendations on the type of products

to include, sourced and assessed the quality of vendor products, and assembled the component items into kits.

The end result is a Wound Care Kit that is cost-friendly, portable, and meets the wound care needs of the patient (Figure 1). The first batch of kits were delivered in early October 2022 and form part of the standard equipment carried by THKNH Home Care team on their home visits.

Evaluation

Feedback from patients has been positive, with many thankful for the convenience that saves them time from choosing and getting their own products, especially if they have no time to buy, or have forgotten to buy wound dressings for use on that day. They also feel assured that the correct products will be available for their wounds to be treated in a timely manner.

Staff have commented that the Wound Care Kit contained all the essential items required during the home visits, and feel more confident in administering wound treatment with the Wound Care kit. Increasing familiarity to the standardised items in the kit improves work efficiency in the long run, as staff spend less time in figuring out the optimal usage of patient-provided wound care products, allowing them to focus on improving patient experience, and serve more patients in need.

Conclusion

The Wound Care Kit will be rolled out as part of daily operations to all suitable patients seen by the THKNH Home Care team in the upcoming months. The team is likely to increase the range and number of products (e.g. nasogastric tubes, urinary catheters), based on patients' needs and demand. In future, personal customisation of kits to meet the individual needs of each patient has been proposed. The idea of multifunctional kits has also been studied in detail by the AMK-THKH Home Care team, and is pending evaluation based on need.



Figure 1. Contents of the Wound Care Kit.



Figure 2. Patients with the Wound Care Kit.