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# Up-skilling of Ward Nurses to Perform Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) in the Inpatient Settings, Singapore General Hospital

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## Aim

To equip ward nurses in the renal inpatient wards with knowledge and skills and to empower them to perform Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) exchanges safely and confidently for inpatients.

## Background

Since 1990s PD for patients admitted to the Singapore General Hospital and National Heart Centre are performed by staff nurses from the PD centre (PDC). In the recent months, Ministry of Health's (MOH) directive was to promote PD as the mode of dialysis for all patients with renal impairment across the nation. Inadvertently this implementation will cause an increase in workload for the PD nurses. The initiative to up-skill ward nurses for PD was directed by Dr Marjorie Foo, Head of Renal Medicine, SGH and Dr Tracy Carol Ayre, SingHealth's Group Chief Nurse. This initiative was presented and approved by the SingHealth Medical Board on 7 November 2017.

## Preparation Phase

In view of MOH's directive, Renal Medicine anticipated a surge of PD patients. PDC collaborated with the Renal Speciality Nurses to start PD training in July 2015 for all staff nurses working in inpatient wards. After Medical Board's approval was granted, a PD Refresher course was re-conducted in Ward 42 for all staff nurses. All Ward 42 staff nurses have been certified competent in performing PD exchanges for the inpatients. Eight staff nurses were identified as the PD Champions to lead the team.

## Buddy System in Ward 42



## Implementation Phase

PD officially was started in Ward 42 on 2 January 2018. At least one PD Champion is scheduled on duty to guide the staff nurses on performing PD exchanges (Buddy System). PDC nurses conducted daily rounds to support the ward nurses for two months before officially handing over the PD tasks to the ward staff nurses to perform PD practice, independently.

Initially there were many hurdles to overcome, such as:

1. Unfamiliarity and inexperience in documenting into the PD Flowsheets.
2. Troubleshooting alarms on PD machines.
3. Lack of confidence of the ward nurses in managing the Automated PD machines.

As PDC Nurses were readily available to resolve issues and mentor the staff nurses troubleshooting, Ward 42 staffs' morale and confidence were uplifted in managing this new work process.

Data collected from 2 January 2018 to 2 April 2018	Before Implementation	After Implementation
Waiting time to initiate PD	45 Mins	10 Mins
Ending time for Automated PD	60 Mins	0 Mins
Peritonitis occurrence during hospitalization	0 Episode	0 Episode
Exit Site Infection during hospitalization	0 Episode	0 Episode

## Conclusion

The up-skilling PD Process for Ward 42 Staff Nurses' to perform PD procedures was challenging. The ward nurses had voiced their concerns when it was first initiated. However, all hurdles were controlled with the support from PDC nurses, Ward Managers and Administrators. Staffs' confidence had also been increased as they get more hands on with the PD practice. Patients' satisfaction was increased as PD exchanges are delivered promptly resulting in effective communication between patients and staff. With this successful implementation, the PD upskilling project has progressed into the next phase; Ward 64 nurses will be upskilled to perform PD.