

## Dried up no more

Finding a solution to avoid unintentional water drainage of the splint pan while the power is on.



### Introduction

Occupational therapists (OT) fabricate splints on a daily basis. The fabrication process involves usage of a splint pan filled with water in which the OT dips the splinting material to soften it before molding it on the client. A non-stick net is used to avoid the splinting material sticking to the bottom of the splint pan. Two incidents were reported where the OT department's splint pan was fully drained while the power was still on after cleaning duty performed by the therapy assistant (TA), which resulted in the burning of the net.

### Methodology

Individual non-directive interviews were conducted by the unit leader in charge (IC) with the 3 TA responsible for the maintenance of the splint pan. Detailed information were gathered on their maintenance procedures and usage of the drain valve lever arm. It revealed that 2 of the TA interpreted the instruction printed on the lever arm wrongly. All reported that they were relying on their memory to shut the drain valve.

The IC brainstormed with the TAs for possible solutions to address the 2 main causes identified; namely misinterpretation of printed instruction on the drain valve lever arm and reliance on memory in routine work.

The first solution was to affix a picture [Diagram A] of the lever arm in "shut" and "open" positions beside the valve for easy reference. A user manual providing clearer instructions and diagram on the proper usage of the lever arm was also created.

To avoid the reliance on memory, the maintenance log was reviewed and inserted with a check box [Diagram B] to ensure the valve was shut after routine maintenance.

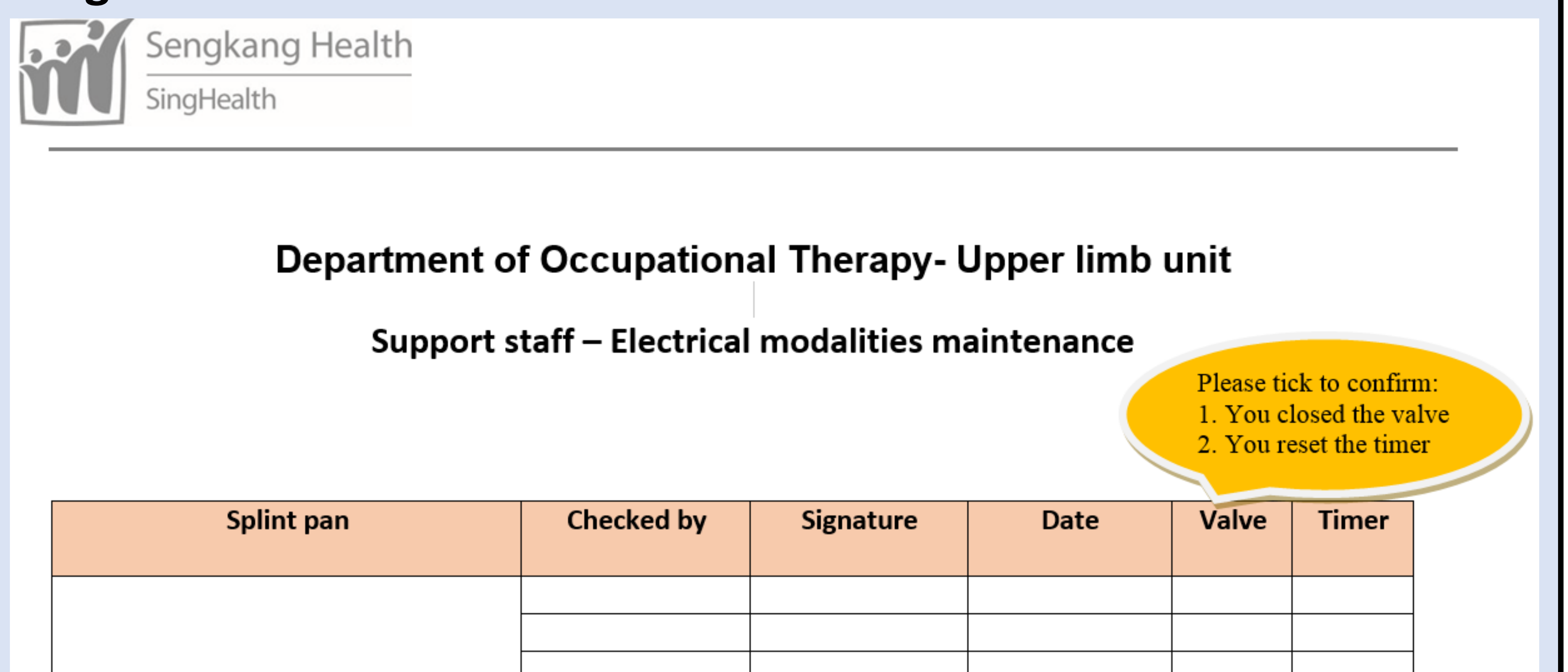
### Result

There has been no report of similar incident since the implementation of the solutions. The diagram provided clear visual reference and the additional check box provided a second line of reminder to ensure the valve is shut after maintenance.

**Diagram A**



**Diagram B**



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Please tick to confirm:  
1. You closed the valve  
2. You reset the timer

Splint pan	Checked by	Signature	Date	Valve	Timer