

It Takes a Village to Optimize Teaching

Teo Kai Yunn, Singapore General Hospital
 Andrea Choh, Singapore General Hospital
 Karen Perera, Singapore General Hospital

Background

Nasogastric tubes (NGT) are widely used in hospitals as a means for feeding and gastric decompression. Nonetheless, with increased complexity of patients and advances in drug therapy, there was a need to revise training of nurses in nasogastric tube insertion and management.

Previously, Nursing Competency training focused on the skill of inserting a NGT and ensuring the placement of the NGT. There were no structured training programme hence nurses' knowledge and the nursing care to patient with NG tube varies. This may be risky as different actions might be warranted when patients' conditions changes.

Aims

The aim of the initiative was to enhance and standardise Nursing Competency Training for insertion of NGT by incorporating a theoretical framework to ensure patient safety.

Methodology

A multi-disciplinary team was formed to design the structured competency training programme including theory and skill based approach adopted from international best practice guidelines. The team comprises of Doctors, Pharmacist, Dietician and Nurses from the Nutritional Services Department.

3 components were designed in the NGT Competency Training programme:

1. Theory (Part 1): Lectures from respective division
2. Theory (Part 2): Quiz competency
3. Skill competency

The lectures focused on the anatomy of the gastric tract, latest guidelines of the management of NGT, choice of enteral feeding as well as the nursing care on the pharmacology aspect for patient with NGT. An E-assessment online platform via BlackBoard learning has been set up to incorporate the quiz competency.

The team has adopted 'Train the Trainer' approach to ensure the best practices and the new guidelines are being shared to each nurses. Nursing representative from relevant areas attended a half day workshop to learn the skills and latest guidelines from the team. The trainers are required to competent in the skill competency and pass the theory quiz via the E-assessment platform at the end of the workshop.



Figure 1: NGT Competency Training

Methodology (Continue)

Once the trainer are certified competent, they will be given a set of teaching material which can be found in the E-assessment platform to share the new knowledge in their clinical areas. The trainers also received a set of skill competency guiding material from our team to conduct skill competency. This approach is to ensure standardization of practice in the organization.

All trainees are required to go through the series of lectures conducted by the trainers and pass the quiz competency from E-assessment online platform. Once they have passed the quiz competency, they will be tested on skills competency conducted by trainers.

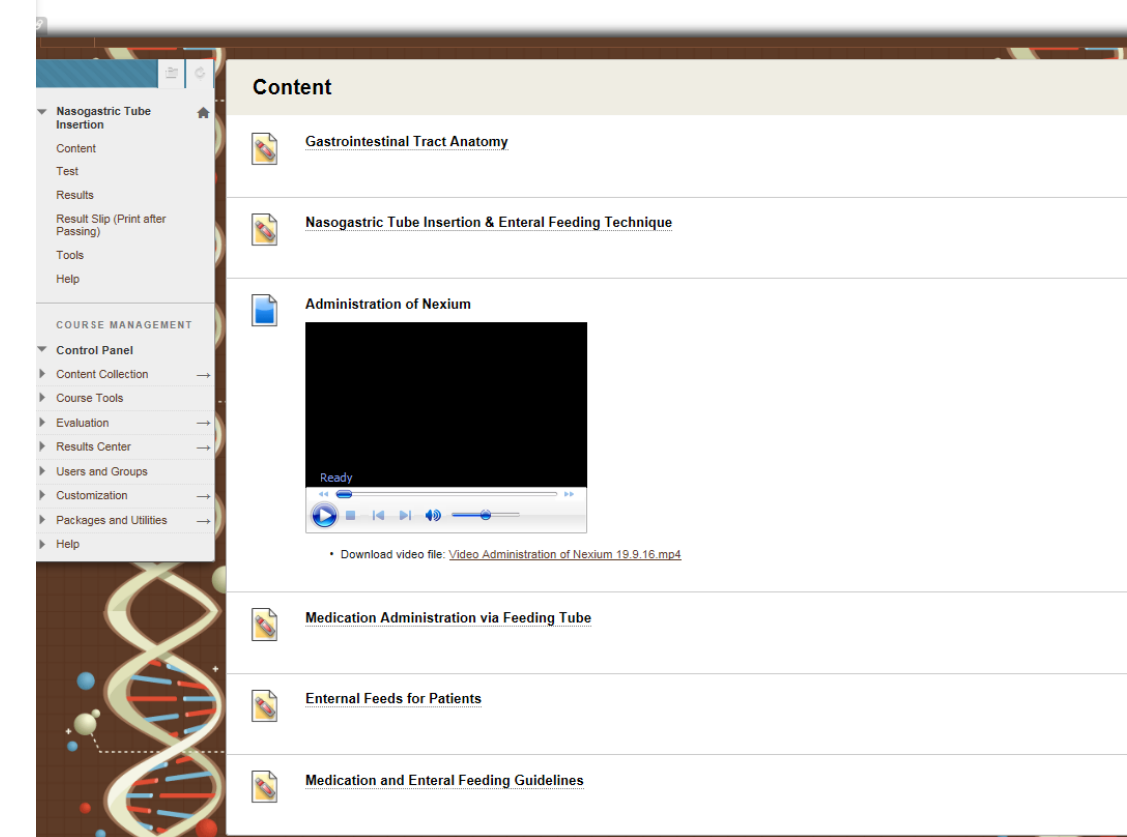


Figure 2: Online platform



Figure 3: Skill competency

Results

Standardization of practice and competency methods have been maintained throughout the structured competency training programme.

The new initiative was widely accepted as nurses felt more confident inserting and managing patient with NGT. The structured training programme gave clear instructions and standardise on the work process hence patient safety is assured.

Knowledge of the nurses improved. There was zero adverse event from a wrongly NGT insertion was reported. This is in-line with the organisation mission of "quality care to every patient through comprehensive integrated clinical practice, medical innovation and lifelong learning"

Conclusion

The structured competency training programme involving multidisciplinary team was widely accepted by nurses. They felt more confident inserting and managing a patient with NGT. The standardise teaching and competency guiding material provide a clear and standardise work process hence patient safety is assured. The initiative can be transferred to other institutes or hospital when conducting Nursing Competency.