



Prevention of Patient Trolley related Injury

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Introduction

In OT services, almost all patients returned to wards on patient trolleys after surgery. The Healthcare Assistant and Patient Care Assistants are intensely involved in the activities of transporting patients with manual/ motorized trolleys .The process of transferring patient from one area to another on trolley requires two staff as one will need to push manual trolley/ operate motorised trolley while the Patient Care Assistant observe the patient during the transfer.

Background

As the demand of pushing patient trolleys from one area to another destination is high on a daily basis, there is potential risk for injury to staff. Foot and hand injuries are the most common types of incidents. There are a total of four reported cases of which three involving the leg and one hand injuries in 2016.

The true cost of these injuries includes direct cost for staff medical fee and possible compensation to staff. Indirect cost includes loss of productivity, time taken for investigation, staff morale and replacing staff when the staff is on sick leave resulted from the injury



Methodology

1. To prevent Foot Injury

- Installation of *wheel guard protectors* for patient trolley.
- The function of the protectors safely cease the trolley wheels from rolling over the staff's foot when it touches any obstructions.



2. To prevent Hand Injury

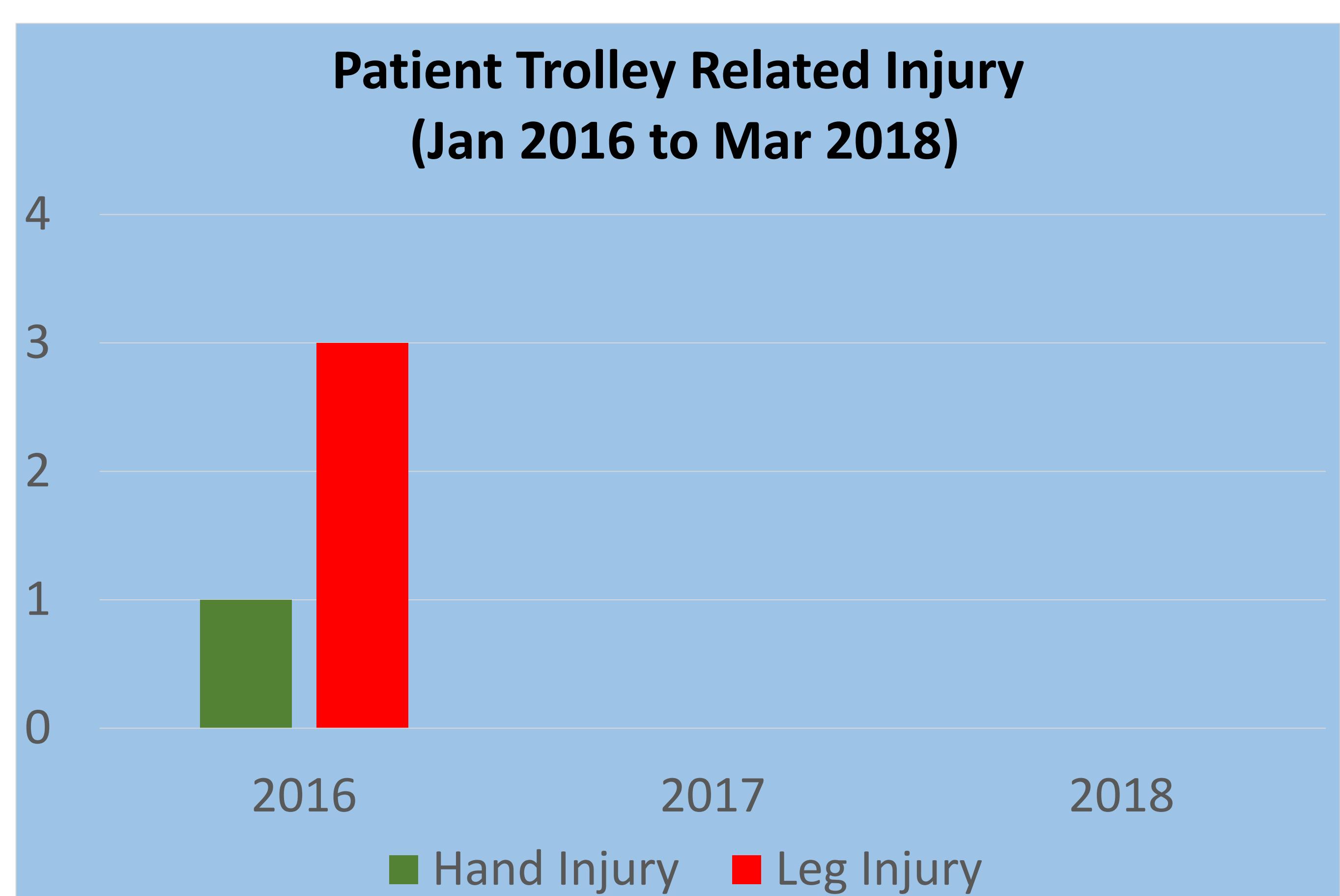
- A **Chart** was created to remind staff on the correct placement of hands at the foot of the trolley when pushing the trolley instead of holding the rail guard of the trolley



Result

There was **ZERO** foot injuries reported in OT services after the installation of wheel guard protectors for all patient trolleys.

The education chart on the correct ways of handling patient trolleys has created awareness by reminding staff on the correct technique and created a culture of reminding their colleagues on the correct ways of holding the trolley.



Conclusion

The incidence of foot and hand injuries resulting from trolleys are definitely preventable. The collaborated effort from all level of staff is significant and has reduced to zero injury. It is often overlooked on the correct hands placement on trolley when pushing patient trolley. The department emphasize the importance of showing the correct techniques of holding trolley by using a simple chart.