



**Singapore Healthcare
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Occupational Therapy Upper Limb Splint Display Cabinet

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Background

Occupational therapists fabricate a variety of splints for patients with upper limb conditions. It can be challenging for patients to visualize the splints through therapists' verbal description without visual aids. Hence sample splints were fabricated for patients to view prior to splint fabrication. However, the splints were stacked in 2 unlabelled containers stored inside an overhead cabinet.



Root cause analysis

- Suboptimal Identification and Retrieval Process

It was difficult to identify and retrieve desired splints to show patients.

- Unprofessional Image

The densely stacked materials were unsightly and some patients might perceive that they were paying for recycled products instead of a customised splint.

- Workplace Safety Hazard

There is a risk of stacked equipment falling out from the cabinets whenever they were opened.

- Lack of Accountability

It was difficult to ascertain which splints were booked out and/or returned.

Project Aims

- To enhance accessibility and identification of splints.
- To enhance the professional image projected to patients and visitors.

Interventions

The overhead cabinet next to the splinting pan and splinting materials was chosen to provide a one-stop location for splint display, patient education and fabrication of splints.

The splints in the display cabinet were labelled and categorised for display according to the hand structures involved (forearm-based, hand-based etc).

Velcro straps were screwed onto the cupboard walls to secure the splints, preventing potential injuries from falling object.

Additionally, small sample materials were gathered in a key ring to allow patients to see the different materials while the therapist explains the properties and type of material chosen for fabrication.



Results

- Therapists reported that patients are more willing to try the sample splints and time is saved for each splint fabrication. The time saved allows therapists to explain the splint and material to patients.
- Patients enjoy some autonomy to discuss splint fabrication patterns and materials from the display cabinet.
- The display cabinet also serves as a splint display showcase for visitors to the hospital.

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