

## **Rehabilitation Equipments on Loan and Management System for Elderly in Private Nursing Homes (PNH) under KWH CGAS Care**

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### **Introduction:**

The demand of rehabilitation equipment for frail elderly living in PNH has been markedly increasing over the years. Their care needs are individualized and change with times. To provide timely service, equipment should always be ready for prescription. Acknowledging the significant cost in meeting the needs, concerted effort amongst PNHs, CGAS Nurses and OT to provide equipment on-loan service was initiated in 2003 to optimize the resources on one hand and to promote the 'green' concept on the other.

### **Purpose of the Program:**

This on-loan system aims at better utilization of rehabilitation resource and more timely equipment prescription to address PNH residents' needs. In this way, their health status can be sustained or improved. Besides, 'disused' or 'used' equipment are collected and disinfected ready for use for other potential needy residents. With an effective maintenance system, this pool of collected equipment lifespan can be lengthened and shared amongst residents of different PNHs.

### **Methods:**

This program involves 30 PNHs under KWH CGAS service. Staff of PNHs, conduct resident's routine screening, and make request to the CGAS nurse for assessment should the need for rehabilitation equipment arise. The nurse will then initiate a referral to OT for professional consultation and equipment prescription as deemed appropriate. Synergizing the teamwork, OT is responsible for checking and conducting maintenance to keep the equipment optimally functional, while the nurse, being a coordinator, keeps continuous track of residents' condition. This 'trio' partnership ensures service quality and cost effectiveness.

### **Results:**

Facing an ageing population, there would be an escalating demand on various rehabilitation equipment. However, under this program, there were only 29 equipment prescribed in 2003 and 24 in 2004 versus the number of new equipment request of 73 and 91 respectively. Obviously the expenditure used to purchase equipment has sharply decreased by 68%.

### **Conclusions:**

The loan system is also a 'green' program in reducing wastage. It saves public funding while not compromising any service quality. With this pool of equipment on hand, the care team can quickly address residents' needs and reduce their risk of deterioration.