Vocational Rehabilitation Service- An Interfacing Model between Hospital and Community Partner

Liu, P.<sup>1,</sup> Wan, M.<sup>1</sup>, Yeung, L.<sup>1</sup>, Wong, A.<sup>1</sup>, Woo, K.<sup>2</sup>, & Lam, C.K.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Occupational Therapy Department
 United Christian Hospital (UCH)
 <sup>2</sup> Hong Kong Workers' Health Center (HKWHC)



### Introduction

From December 2006,

OT Department of United Christian Hospital (UCH) started collaborating with the community partner Hong Kong Workers' Health Center (HKWHC, 香港工人健康中心)

#### **Reason for the collaboration**

According to the yearly statistics review:

Average post injury period was 45 weeks, 62.4% of cases were referred after post injury > 6 months

Inappropriate timings for referrals According to "A Retrospective Study on the Work Rehabilitation Outcome Evaluation in a Local Acute Hospital" **presented in APOTC 2007:** Factors correlating to the successful RTW of the local WR cases:

 $\frac{\text{Post-injury period}}{\text{IOD Status}(p < 0.005)}$  $\frac{\text{IOD Status}(p < 0.005)}{\text{Diagnosis}}$  $\frac{(p < 0.001)}{(p < 0.005)}$  $\frac{\text{Educational level}}{\text{Previous occupation}}$  $\frac{(p < 0.005)}{(p < 0.005)}$  $\frac{\text{PDC level of previous job}}{(p < 0.005)}$ 

To facilitate:

Interface between hospital and community phases of VRS

Early community intervention & engagement

Better service continuity, quality and effectiveness, successful RTW rate.

Collaboration of Hospital OT and HKWHC

### **Methods of Collaboration**



#### **Community Phase**

Patient Retraining & Resettlement Program Transitional work Volunteer work

### **Examples of WR training**



stair training: logistic/ transportation worker weight)

Shoveling

Use of Cleansing trolley

#### **Examples of Work Assessment**



**ARCON dynamic lifting test/ static lifting test** 

Shoveling



Collecting Laundry Bag Climbing up ladder

Use of Cleansing trolley

Wood Work

#### **Methods of review**

- The clients attended the project from December 2006 to October 2007 were reviewed retrospectively.
- Their demographic characteristics, problematic areas and programs received were retrieved for analysis with the use of descriptive statistics.

## **Summary of Outcomes**

Total no.	66
Sex	Male : 46 (70%) Female : 20 (30%)
Age Range	24-58 y.o. (Mean : 45.18 y.o.)
Post injury period	Average post injury period was 45 weeks, 62.4% of cases were referred after post injury > 6 months
Major Problems of the cases	<ul> <li>Most of them were not able return to their original jobs</li> <li>34% of them suffered from chronic pain</li> <li>18% got psychosocial problem in return to work</li> </ul>
Outcome after join the HKWHC collaboration	<ul> <li>56% joined vocational resettlement program (to prepare change jobs)</li> <li>22% of them joined the Transitional Work Program (volunteer work) while pending for their further adjustment and acceptance of disability</li> <li>The rest was found to be indicated for further psychosocial intervention and regular follow up.</li> </ul>

# Diagnostic groups



## **Physical Demand Level of Clients**



Frequency

## **Occupational Categories of Clients**



### Conclusion

#### Prolonged post injury period,

Job nature..... (heavy PDC level/ work in structural work)

**Diagnosis (spinal injury)** 

Affect clients from RTW after work injury\* (refer to appendix)

Collaboration with the HKWHC for <u>Early Community Intervention &</u> <u>engagement</u> to enhance better *service continuity, quality and effectiveness, ultimately successful RTW rate.* 

After implementation of the program for a year, it is expected that more clients could be referred from OT Department of UCH to HKWHC under this collaboration for more effective intervention.

# End

## Thank You!

## Appendix

Negative Factors	Literatures Reviews
Post injury period > 30 weeks	Rehabilitation/ disability management program available within 30 days from injury have Significant Positive effect to the RTW rate (Crook J., et al., 2002)
	The <b>Most Important</b> principle of disability management is "Early Intervention" (Galvia, 1985)
Higher PDC level	Presence of Modified Jobs enhance RTW
Structural Work category	(Lemstra. M., et al., 2004)
Back Injury Cases	Multiple physical disabilities, activity limitation, pain reduces the RTW rate (Wand et al., 2004)