



Risk Assessment for Moving Patients (RAMP)

Effect of manual handling program on workplace practice

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Background

Ward staff are at high risk of injury when engaging in patient manual handling activities. Manual handling programs do not normally include risk assessment as a way to prevent injury.

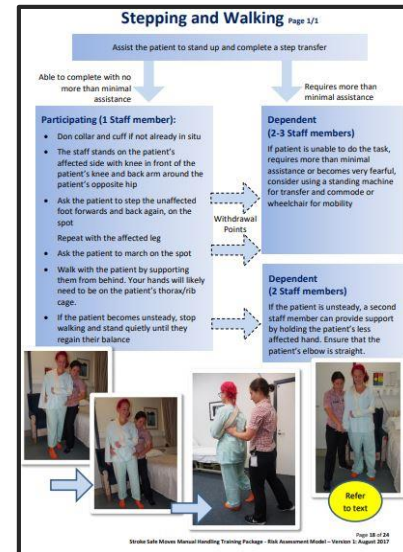
Aim

To evaluate transfer of RAMP manual handling training into the workplace and the effect on staff injuries and patient falls.

Methods

A 4 hour RAMP program, developed and delivered by physiotherapists, to teach ward staff to conduct a manual handling risk assessment, choose the appropriate transfer and move patients safely.

- Clinical observation audits conducted to assess use of RAMP skills on ward
- Pre-training, 1-month and 6-months post-training
- Staff musculoskeletal injuries and patient falls monitored in the 6 months pre and post-training



Conclusion

RAMP is a promising, 4-hour manual handling intervention that can teach ward staff skills that are translated into clinical practice and sustained over the medium-term.

Long-term studies are required to determine whether RAMP leads to fewer staff injuries or patient falls.



Results

RAMP skills of staff on neuro-rehabilitation and acute stroke wards improved:

- Risk assessment: Task, load, environment
- Interpretation of risk assessment
- Use of additional staff member
- Withdrawal from transfer
- Staff positioning
- Education of patient
- Consideration of environment
- Walking of patient

Sustained at 6 months.

