

Implementation of a smoking cessation service (SCC) in Outram Community Hospital (OCH)

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Problem Statement

Approximately 5-10% of patients admitted to Outram Community Hospital (OCH) are smokers. The lack of a smoking cessation counselling (SCC) service in OCH means that our care team are not able to help them improve their lives through a structured program.

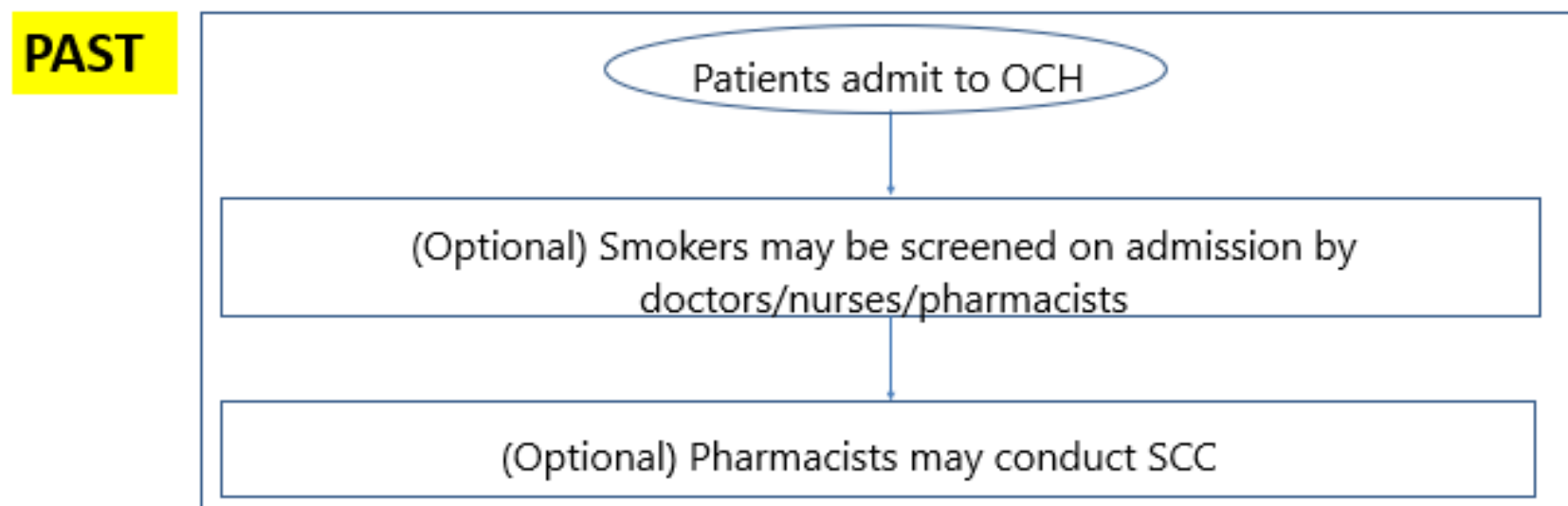


Figure 1: Previous workflow in OCH for referral patients for SCC

Project Aim

To achieve at least 50% of identified smokers to attend at least 1 SCC session during their OCH admission, over a 6 months period from July 2022 to December 2022. This will help these patients work towards a healthier lifestyle.

Lessons Learnt

1) Education of staff on SCC

SCC is a skill that requires time to hone and perfect. It would have been beneficial for OCH pharmacists to attend courses to equip themselves to deliver SCC with more confidence.

2) Involvement of nursing in project

Nurses are involved in SCC in other healthcare settings. We could have involved OCH nurses as SCC counsellors which can provide an extra touch point to support patients on SCC.

Potential Solutions

Root cause	Interventions
No standardized screening & referral process for SCC	Compulsory field created in OCH admission note for doctors to screen for smoking. If patient is actively smoking, an electronic referral for SCC will be triggered.
insufficient pharmacists with SCC skills	In-house SCC training for new pharmacists
Lack of a simplified standardized SCC clerking template	Standardization for OCH pharmacists to use SCM Smoking Cessation Initial Note/ Follow-up note as SCC clerking template

Phase 1:

-SCC was piloted in 2 wards (OCH ward 9B & ward 12B) (July-September 2022)

Phase 2:

-Implementation in all OCH wards (October-December 2022)

CURRENT INITIATIVE

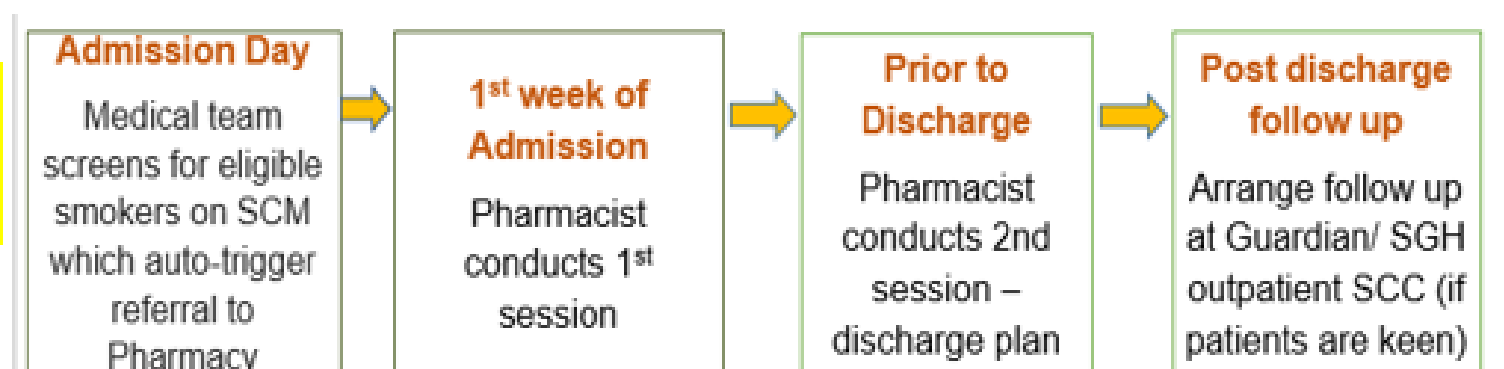


Figure 2: New workflow in OCH for referral patients for SCC based on root cause analysis

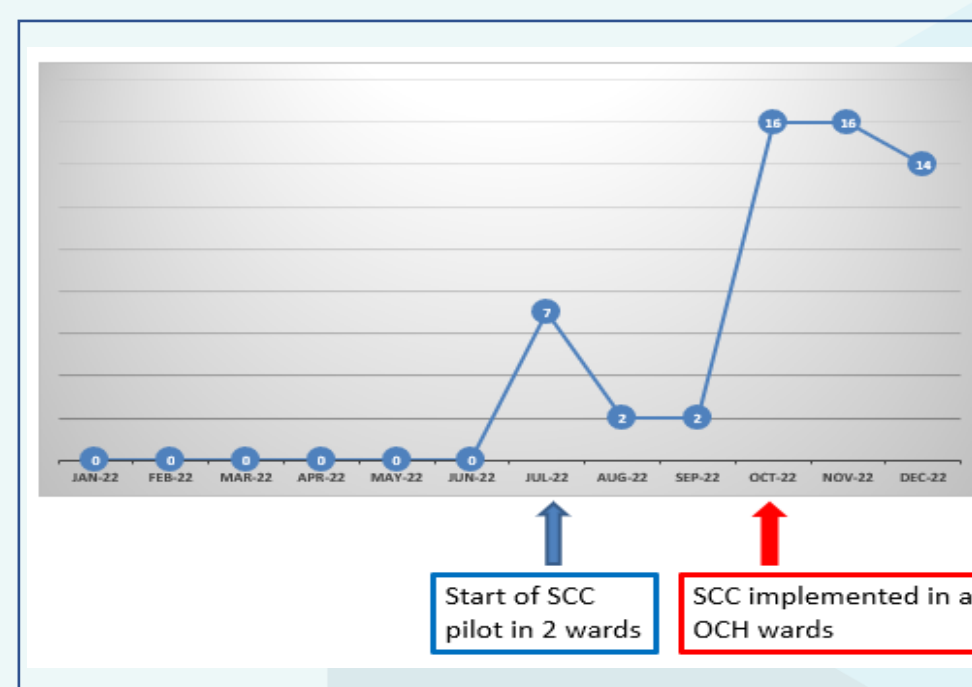
Outcomes & Impacts

Outcomes

- Implementation of mandatory screening for smokers for newly admitted patients in OCH
- Electronic auto-referral to SCC program in OCH

Impact

- OCH SCC referrals increased from 0 to 57 over 6 months intervention period
- 84.2% of referred smokers had at least 1 SCC session in OCH over 6 months
- Successful spread of new SCC workflow to Sengkang Community Hospital
- SCC is aligned with MOH Healthier SG initiative



Run Chart 1. Number of smokers referred for SCC



Run Chart 2. Number of smokers with at least 1 SCC session