



Converging Healthcare & Technology

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CONVERGENCE IN HEALTHCAREPublished by
IJCIH & Pratyaksh Medicare LLPwww.ijcih.com
doi.org/10.55487/ijcih.v3i1.129

Shaping and Facilitating the Road to Recovery - Incorporating Physiotherapists in A&E

Dash Silpishree¹, Sharma Shweta², Anand Pooja³

¹Post Graduate Student, Faculty of Physiotherapy, SGT University, Gurugram, Haryana, India, ²Assistant Professor, Faculty of Physiotherapy, SGT University, Gurugram, Haryana, India, ³Dean, Faculty of Physiotherapy, SGT University, Gurugram, Haryana, India

Abstract

To review the effectiveness of early diagnosis and rehabilitation in the department of emergencies and accidents, inclusion of rehabilitative team in the team of emergency department. The physiotherapists, as a first contact practitioners would help in yielding good patient outcomes and improve patient flow along with early diagnosis and early incorporation of rehabilitation in the emergency departments of any health care establishments. Participants had to be the patients appearing in the A&E department with any musculoskeletal, cardiopulmonary, neurological condition requiring emergency attention. Data were extracted from 15 articles from PubMed, Cochrane Library, MEDLINE, PEDRO, Research Gate and Science Direct. Included studies were published in between 2015 and 2021. When compared to patients treated using standard care procedures, those seen by the primary contact physiotherapist (PCP) had significantly shorter wait time for treatment, rehabilitation and for the first dose of analgesia. Both the A&E team and the patients were well satisfied by the incorporation of physiotherapist in the department. Patients who first saw a doctor and subsequently a physiotherapist (secondary contact model) had a longer length of stay than patients who got other types of care. More than 95% of patients who received care from a physiotherapist in A&E were happy with the way their illness was being managed, understood their guidance and were satisfied with the provided discharge information. It offered them enough time to complete any necessary follow-up care. This study offers helpful insights and recommendations to incorporate physical therapist in accident and emergency departments, and implementation of the same in terms of patient result and experience, as well as staff experience. In a complex, high-demand workplace, Accident & Emergency Department, incorporation of physiotherapy may increase patient flow and the effectiveness of clinical skill utilization and faster delivery of the treatment.

Keywords: Accident & Emergency Department, Physiotherapy, First Contact practitioners.