

**COST ANALYSIS OF LABORATORY TESTS
IN MEDICAL WARDS OF
YANGON GENERAL HOSPITAL**

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ABSTRACT

Myanmar health system has been reformed to increase accessibility of health services without financial burden. Out of pocket expenditures are the major challenge to get access to health services. Hospital based cross-sectional study was conducted in four medical wards of 2,000 bed Yangon General Hospital (YGH) by using quantitative and qualitative methods to find out the out of pocket expenditures on laboratory tests. A total of 216 patients were consecutively selected from each medical ward. Based on the 149 kinds of laboratory test tested in the patients of medical wards and categorized as tests done only in YGH laboratory, tests done only in outside laboratory and test done in both YGH laboratory and outside laboratory.

In total of 4,587 tests, 3,852 (84%) tests were done in YGH laboratory and 735 (16%) of tests were done in outside laboratory. Based on 149 kinds of laboratory tests item, 61(40.9%) test item of laboratory tests was done in both YGH laboratory and outside laboratory, 33(22.1%) of tests item were done only in outside laboratory and 5 (3.3%) of tests item were done only in YGH laboratory. In average, each patient done 18 tests in YGH laboratory and 3 tests done in outside laboratory during hospitalization.

The total amount of laboratory tests provided free of charge by YGH was 9,065,200 kyats and the total amount in outside laboratory was 6,161,500 kyats. The average amount of expense by patient on laboratory test is 28,065 kyats in outside laboratory whereas the government expense was in average of 42,954 kyats on each patient in YGH laboratory. The average expensed by patient on laboratory tests were 42,945 kyats in YGH laboratory and 28,065 kyats in outside laboratory. In average, 3-7 days of hospital stay will cost 42,497 kyats, 8-14 days of hospital stay will cost 65,737 kyats and more than 14 days of hospital stay will cost 96,269 kyats on laboratory test.

The reasons behind why out of pocket expenditure in patients were time limitations, man power limitations and weak in inter-departmental collaborations.

This study highlights the requirement of appropriate health financing system to develop to reduce financial hardship of patients to achieve universal health coverage.