

**AWARENESS AND PRACTICE ON  
HEALTH CARE WASTE MANAGEMENT  
AMONG HEALTH CARE WORKERS  
AT YANGON CHILDREN HOSPITAL**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Health care waste is harmful not only to health care worker but also to the community if they are not properly managed by health care workers. Therefore, a cross sectional descriptive study with the objective of studying awareness and practice on health care waste management among health care workers was conducted in Yangon Children Hospital, Yangon Region from September to November, 2017. In this study, the study population was categorized into operational level and managerial level. Operational level included nurses, technicians and menial workers and managerial level included Medical superintendents, consultants, assistant surgeons and ward sisters. Self-Administered written questionnaires were used to assess awareness and practice of health care workers at managerial level and face to face interview was done with health care workers at operational level. There were 178 respondents participating in this study including 119 respondents (67%) at operational level and 59 respondents (33%) at managerial level. Most of the respondents at both levels were female, (86.6%) at operational level and (84.7%) at managerial level. Only few percent of the respondents received health care waste management training, (7.6%) at operational level and (10.2%) at managerial level respectively. According to this study, there were 54.6% of respondents having good awareness level in operational level. Among the respondents at managerial level, there were 54.2% of respondents having good awareness. All the respondents well knew about waste segregation system. Concerning to the knowledge on color coding for health care waste, most of respondents knew the color coding used for general waste, but did not know the color for chemical and pharmaceutical waste. Among 119 respondents at operational level, 50.4% of respondents had good practice. At managerial level, more than half of the respondents (55.9%) had good practice on health care waste management. There was statistically association between awareness and practice on health care waste management among the respondents at both levels. There were many problems found in health care waste management, including insufficient supply of materials for waste, shortage of manpower, and lack of supervision and discipline. There should be regular training sessions and seminars on health care waste management for all health care workers at both operation and managerial levels.