

ABSTRACT

The problem of cold chain logistics management occurs throughout the whole world. The knowledge and practice of the immunization key service providers is vital to solve the problem. This cross-sectional study was conducted to assess cold chain logistics management and to detect Expanded Programme on Immunization related knowledge and practice of key providers of immunization in selected townships of Mandalay, Myanmar from on September to December, 2018. The data were collected using pre-defined check lists and pretested semi-structured questionnaires which was developed based on Cold Chain Key Persons manual Myanmar and previous studies of cold chain and immunization. The status of cold room and the regional sub-depot was assessed by the pre-defined check lists and the knowledge and practice of key providers was assessed with the questionnaire by face to face interview. The regional sub-depot, selected 10 township cold rooms, 33 cold chain key persons and 150 midwives were participated in this study. The functioning CCE were available in all the cold rooms including the sub-depot (100%). About (91%) of the cold rooms stored vaccines except one township cold room. All the cold rooms had proper temperature monitoring and recording but there were the data inconsistency between the temperature monitoring devices and the charts in the three township cold rooms. Although the vaccines were stacked properly in the all cold rooms, the 3 township cold rooms were observed that the substances other than the vaccines were stored in the ILRs. Regarding the knowledge of cold chain key persons, (93.9%) had high level of knowledge though none of the cold chain key persons knew all 5 criteria of multi-dose vial policy and only (48%) knew VVM 30. There was (75.8%) of high level of practice on cold chain logistics management among cold chain key while only (55%) could perform all steps of the shake test and (12%) did not know how to read the temperature monitoring device. There was no significant association between the knowledge and practice of cold chain key persons on cold chain logistics management. Almost all of the midwives had high level of knowledge and practice concerning immunization and cold chain though none of them knew all 5 criteria of multi-dose vial policy and only (11%) knew VVM 30.

In conclusion, the knowledge and practice of the key service providers were high while there were some knowledge gaps which should be emphasized in the immunization related trainings and supervisions.