ABSTRACT

Healthcare waste management is very important as healthcare activities are increasingly utilized and advanced technology used in diagnostic methods has been accessible throughout the world. Improper healthcare waste management is the threat to lives because of their hazardous nature. This study was conducted to assess the healthcare waste management system at Yangon Children Hospital. Total 15 units including 13 clinical care and 2 clinical supportive units were involved for quantitative assessment. In-depth interviews were conducted to seven participants to explore the challenges in healthcare waste management. Seven categories of hazardous healthcare wastes were identified in this study. Average healthcare waste per day was about 22 kg. Average healthcare wastes per capita per day and per bed per day were found to be 0.02 kg and 0.04 kg respectively. Average correct wastes in correct containers were 96% due to proper segregation at the source of generation of wastes. All yellow containers and safety boxes were well labelled (100%) and labelling of red containers was found 97%. Three used bottles for needle disposal were not completely labelled. Sharp wastes were disinfected (87%), mainly by 2% Aseptol solution. On the other hand, infectious and pathological wastes were not disinfected before final disposal. For chemical and genotoxic wastes, treatment was not done due to lack of incinerator. Thick paper boxes, empty injection vials and empty 5L plastic betadine or spirit bottles were recycled as waste prevention strategy. Exploring challenges encountered, proper wearing of PPE was not found in all waste handling workers and municipal workers. They just wore gloves and masks. There is no separate path or exit of wastes for internal transportation. This study can assess the current situation of waste management and can help finding ways to improve healthcare waste management processes.