

ABSTRACT

It was a hospital-based, cross-sectional, descriptive study, that was conducted in General Medical Unit of Yangon General Hospital with the objective, to explore the catastrophic health care expenditure of patients. To fulfill the objective, 96 patients were interviewed using semi-structured questionnaires during the study period, from 22nd August to 19th September, 2012. To explore the catastrophic health care expenditure faced by the patients for one episode of hospitalization, various types of cost that were direct medical cost, direct non-medical cost and indirect cost were calculated. According to the WHO's definition, health care expenditure is defined as catastrophic when a household's OOP payments are greater than or equal to 40 percent of its capacity to pay or five to 20 percent of total household consumption. In this study, health care expenditure exceeding 40 percent of non-food expenditure or 10 percent of total household expenditure was identified as catastrophic. The proportion of the patients who were likely to face catastrophic consequences as a result of only one episode of hospitalization was 22.9 to 30.2 percent, respectively when catastrophic conditions were estimated, based on proportion of non-food expenditure or total household expenditure. The average total hospitalization cost for all patients was 188,000 Kyats with a range of 42,500 to 994,250 Kyats. The average direct medical cost was 102,000 Kyats and it occupied more than half (54.07 percent) of total hospitalization cost. The average direct non-medical cost was 65,500 Kyats and it was 34.5 percent of total hospitalization cost. Mean indirect cost was 20,800 Kyats and it contributed only 11.07 percent to total hospitalization cost.