KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE OF LABORATORY STAFFS ABOUT STANDARD PRECAUTIONS FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEASURES IN CLINICAL LABORARORY

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ABSTRACT

A cross sectional study was conducted to assess the knowledge and practice of laboratory staffs about standard precautions for infection prevention and control (IPC) in clinical laboratory of Yangon General Hospital (YGH), Yangon Children Hospital (YCH), New Yangon General Hospital (NYGH) and Central Woman Hospital (CWH) from September to December, 2016. Total 97 staffs including officer, Laboratory technician (2), Laboratory technician (3), Laboratory technician (4) and other rank liked helper were participated in quantitative study. For qualitative study, four laboratory supervisor/ in charge were participated. Average age of respondents was 37 (±11) year and most of them were between 20 and 29 year of age. Female staffs were more dominant. Most of the staffs (46.4%) were 10 year and below in service experience and no on job training about standard precautions for IPC. In this study, 75 percentile of given marks of the knowledge and practice scores were used as line of demarcation to separate good and poor. Among them, 59.8% had poor knowledge and in practice, 94.8% were poor and only 5.2% were good about standard precautions for IPC. In this study, most of the staffs had knowledge about personal protective equipments (PPE) but did not use this knowledge in practice. Knowledge level had statistically significant with age and service year ($P<0.001$). There was also association between age and practice ($P<0.005$). This association explored that the younger the age, the lesser the service year, the better knowledge they had whereas the older the age, the more practice on the standard precautions for IPC. This finding pointed out no association

between knowledge and practice score. Moreover, qualitative study pointed that trainings and continuous medical education (CME) supported and supervised by top level authorities were required to improve their knowledge and practice and supplies of the necessary equipments for safety were also important. Regulatory mechanism was needed to let them use their knowledge in practice. This regulatory mechanism should be motivated by persuasion and supplying their need.