

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE ON NEEDLE STICK AND SHARP INJURIES
AMONG HEALTH CARE WORKERS

FROM NEW YANGON GENERAL HOSPITAL

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2016

ABSTRACT

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B and hepatitis C viruses can be transmitted by needle stick and sharp injuries among health care workers (HCWs). In addition to those terrible infective agents, other transmissible infections can harm health professionals by needle stick and sharp injuries (NSSI). The objectives of this study were to assess the proportion of needle stick and sharp injuries among healthcare workers and to explore knowledge, attitude and practice regarding NSSI among HCWs from New Yangon General Hospital (NYGH). The study was cross-sectional descriptive study and conducted in NYGH from October to November 2016. Total 180 health care workers from NYGH were voluntarily participated in this study by answering self-administered questionnaire. Data analysis was done by using the SPSS version 16.0 software. Majority of participants were female (87.2%) by gender, nurses (58.9%) and less than 10 years work experience group (70%). Among study group, (87.2%) of participants had received hepatitis B vaccination by three doses. Though knowledge, attitude and practice level were high, majority were still practicing recap of used needles (86.7%) and needle separation from syringe (92.2%) prior

to dispose. Regarding sharp container, just (20.6%) used WHO safety box for used needle disposal and (48.9%) were using plastic water bottle. The study reported the proportion of NSSI was (56.1%). The study shows no associations between NSSI and knowledge, attitude and practice level of HCWs. The commonest place for NSSI was in-patient ward and the devices were injecting needles. However, there were strong associations between NSSI and some sociodemographic characteristics such as age group, sex, education status, working experiences and job category. The study revealed all participants did not follow universal precaution exactly to prevent needle stick and sharp injuries. Therefore refresher courses and training on trainers should be given to the health care workers from this hospital.