

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS AND SAFETY PRACTICES AMONG HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN PYIN OO LWIN GENERAL HOSPITAL

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2016

ABSTRACT

Healthcare workers (HCWs) are exposed to biological hazards such as transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C while they perform their clinical activities in the hospital. Compliance with safety practices has been shown to reduce the risk of exposure to blood and body fluids. This study was aimed at assessing the biological hazards and safety practices among healthcare workers in (300) Bedded Pyin Oo Lwin General Hospital.

This study was a cross-sectional descriptive study and conducted from October to December, 2016. In this study, 190 healthcare workers including 22 (11.6%) doctors, 106 (55.8%) nurses, 11 (5.8%) laboratory technicians and 51 (26.8%) general workers were interviewed by pretested semi-structured questionnaires. Safety practices were assessed by scoring system to universal precaution, wearing PPE, hand washing and immunization practices.

Nearly 50 percent of the study population were thirty years of age and below. And nearly 90% were females, (42.1%) were singles, 21.6% were below high school level and mean (SD) services years were 9.62 (8.57) years. In this study, 130 (68.4%) respondents had history of biological hazards within 6 months. The most common biological hazards were direct contact with contaminated specimens/ bio-hazardous materials. There were 112 (58.9%) respondents who got high score. Regarding the association between safety practice and background characteristics such as sex, marital status, rank, education, alcohol drinking habit, smoking habit, service years in Pyin Oo Lwin, pressure from job were significantly associated with p value of 0.002, 0.0041, <0.001, <0.001, 0.014, 0.006, <0.001, <0.001 respectively. Regarding the association between biological hazard and background

characteristics, only rank and education were significantly associated with p value of <0.001 each. In this study there was also significant association between safety practices and biological hazards ($p<0.001$).

In conclusion, most of the healthcare workers were exposed to various kinds of biological hazards in hospital. Therefore, it is important to continuously encourage behavioral changes, promotion of safety practices and minimizing exposure to hazards such as; provision of safety equipment, pre-placement and routine training of staff on safety practices and adequate reinforcement of staff capacity.