

ABSTRACT

Background

All alcohol related health problems require medical attention. In addition, repeated episodes of acute and all the chronic health conditions require long term management. Health care providers are well-positioned in the health care system to screen and identify patients with alcohol abuse and related problems and to provide effective interventions. However, the services provided/ practices adopted by them depend on their attitudes.

Objective

To describe selected attitudes and practices and to determine the factors related to attitudes and practices of health care providers towards patients with alcohol related health conditions.

Methodology

This is a descriptive cross sectional study conducted at the Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama. The study population consisted of medical and nursing officers and junior grade staff (attendants and labourers). Sample size computed was 165 for each category. Since the total eligible from each category ranged from 184 to 251, all were recruited to the study.

Study instrument was an anonymous self administered questionnaire which was developed taking into consideration the duties of each of the categories. The survey instrument was divided into four major sections assessing subjects' socio demographic characteristics, attitudes, practices and factors related to selected attitudes and practices.

Attitudes and practices were scored and $\geq 50\%$ and $< 50\%$ were considered as the cut off to determine favourable and unfavourable attitudes and practices respectively.