

ABSTRACT

Annually approximately 18000 police officers and their family members receive medical care in the medical clinic at police hospital. Descriptive cross sectional study was performed at Police Hospital Colombo with the objective of assessing the morbidity pattern and utilization of medical clinic facilities among clinic users of the Police Hospital.

A sample of 275 patients with selected non communicable diseases were selected by systematic random sampling. Study was carried out for a period of one month. They were interviewed using a pre-tested questionnaire. Review of patients clinic records were carried out by using a structural observation schedule. Another check list was used to check the available facilities at the clinic.

Study population consisted of 72% police officers and 28% of family members as clinic users. Among the population of police officers 60% were on service and 40% were retired. Wives of the police officers used the clinic predominantly, with compared to the other family members.

Majority of the clinic attendants were males (69%) and age of 40-60 years (58%). 87% of them were married and majority had educated up to G.C.E. Ordinary level. Majority (91%) had monthly income in between 5001to 15,000.

The study attempts to identify the morbidity pattern of selected non communicable diseases among the clinic users. The most frequent diseases observed were diabetes (65%),

hypertension (49%) musculoskeletal disorders (19%) and ischemic heart diseases(8%). All four diseases were common in 40 to 60 ages. Hypertension was common in retired police officers than on service police officers. But other diseases were equally distributed among police officers on service and retired , also among different rank levels.

At police hospital around 50% of the patients have by passed the health institution closer to their residence with a view of getting good management at police hospital. Over all time spent per clinic visit was 1-6 hours. However, this was not same among the different categories attended to the clinic. Cost spent per clinic showed difference by different categories. High rank senior gazetted officers spent less amount of money than two other categories. 45% of the patients were from Colombo district where the hospital is situated. Majority of the patients travel 10-100 km to attend the clinic. The majority of senior rank officers (senior gazetted officers) spent less than one hour to travel and less than one hour in the clinic. Majority 46% had selected the Police Hospital as the service of their health care due to good management. Majority (65%) have not taken health service other than the Police Hospital for their present illnesses. Even though 35% had taken treatment from other health institutions 97% of patients were self refers to the police hospital.

All the patients attended the clinic were seen by either physician or a medical officer. However during the review period of six months, 54% of senior gazetted officers were more frequently seen by the physicians, where as for gazetted officers and family members were more frequently seen by a medical officer.

Only 42% claimed their source of knowledge was health staff of the police hospital. It was revealed that around 40% were had a good knowledge on their present illness.

All the patients attended the clinic were satisfied with the care received by them. The service providers themselves were satisfied with the service they provide to the patient, but they suggest improvements in laboratory service, Pharmacy service, clinic organization and referral system.

All facilities available at medical clinic were at satisfactory level except for laboratory and pharmacy services, which are needed improvements.