

Abstract

Intensive Care Unit is considered to be one of the costly health care delivery unit in a hospital. But the cost is not always known to the consumer or the care givers. This lack of awareness could affect the cost concern thinking. The study of the Intensive care unit cost and assessment of the cost awareness is important specially with the upcoming disease trends and patterns.

A descriptive cross sectional study was conducted in the Base Hospital Horana, to calculate the per patient day cost in the Intensive care unit. As a second component the awareness regarding this cost was assessed among the Medical officers and the Nursing officers of the same hospital. The data for the cost calculation was collected using a date sheet. The data from bed head tickets of 131 patients admitted during a period of 6 months from 01/01/2008 to 31/06/2008 was used . For the second component data collection was done using a pre tested self administered questionnaire .

The results of the study revealed the cost per bed day in ICU to be Rs. 9 359.07 (for maintenance of the bed if no patients for beds) and Rs.16 712.63 (if patients admitted). The additional cost would be Rs.7 353.56 if a patient got admitted. The diseases admitted to ICU was mainly cardiac related (27.5%) and respiratory related (17.5%). Considering the disease burden, out of the 615, ICU patient days 29.3% was consumed by respiratory related problems while only 16.3 was used by the cardiac related problems. A percentage of 64.9% needed mechanical ventilation and out of all admissions 30.5% was admitted for ventilator support. Medicine as a specialty had the most admissions 65.6%.of all patients admitted 74.8% recovered while 3.8% were transferred out to another hospital. Regarding the cost awareness the Medical Officers (88.2%) and Nursing Officers (18.5%) who had ICU experience, had a better understanding regarding the ICU cost. the cost awareness also had an association with the working at a critical care unit. The total population predicted a median value of Rs.15000.00 as the per day cost for ICU patient

The cost awareness of the total population only 28.2 % of the total sample could give a figure for the ICU per patient day cost. Regarding the cost awareness Medical officers (28.9%) were slightly ahead of the Nursing officers. Out of the total 94% agreed that the cost awareness is important to health care team and 80.1% said that cost awareness could reduce the unnecessary admissions to Intensive care unit.

The results of the study will be use full for the planning of the health economics and also for the cost reduction activities. Further studies of this nature are recommended in all areas of the health sector in order to plan for the requirements of the present and the future.