

CLINICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND THE KNOWLEDGE AMONG SANITARY HEALTH CARE WORKERS IN DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITALS OF CENTRAL PROVINCE

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Abstract

A cross sectional study was conducted on January by intervening 341 sanitary health care workers at District General Hospitals, Central Province. The study aimed to study the current practices of clinical waste management and the knowledge among sanitary health care workers on clinical waste management. The instruments used to collect data were two check list and an interviewer administered questionnaire.

The studied hospitals were same level located in three district of the province, but bed numbers and the number of workers were not same in each institution. The study group represented equal number of male and female and their mean service duration was 10.9 yrs.

The results showed that DGH Matale had relatively good practices than other two hospitals and therefore it was leveled under Level I while other two hospitals came under Level 0. The median total score among sanitary health care workers for the knowledge on clinical waste management was high among sanitary health care workers from DGH Matale than other two hospitals. It was observed that health care workers who had less 5 years of service had higher knowledge than those who had more than 5 years of service. It was found that more than 90% of health care workers from all three hospitals had excellent knowledge on risk of clinical waste and 80% of them were aware about the personal protection in all three institutions based on the questionnaire. But knowledge on waste segregation, transport and final disposal was around 50% in DGH Nawalapitiya and DGH Nuwaraeliya but 80% DGH Matale.

Study found that leveling of current practices according to the standards is statistically significant. Anyway it is necessary to implement planed clinical waste management in health care institutions and motivate towards standard practices. It is also necessary to provide trainings for sanitary health care workers on treatment and final disposal of clinical waste according to the standard.

KEY WORDS: DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL, SANITARY HEALTH CARE WORKERS, CLINICAL WASTE, WASTE SEGREGATION, WASTE TREATMENT, WASTE FINAL DISPOSAL.