

## **Abstract**

A descriptive cross sectional study was carried out retrospectively using bed head tickets (BHT) to assess on laboratory investigation practices at General Hospital Rathnapura. The number of bed head tickets studied was 1664 and 4715 requests of investigations were analyzed in relation to Consultant units of main four specialities Medicine, Surgery, Paediatrics, Gynaecology and Obstetrics.

The percentage of BHTs with requests for laboratory investigations was 57.48 with a range of 36.49 to 84.28. Average length of stay of the patient in the ward was 5.19 days and ranging from 4.28 to 6.54 days. Average number of sets of investigations requested per patient was 1.54 with a range of 1.30 to 1.75 sets of investigations. The percentage of requests for urgent investigation was 11.00 and the range was 8.89 to 19.19. The requests written on the appropriate form (Health 359) was 5.93% and the range was 5.76% to 6.09%. The total requests with complete information was on 4.39% of requests and the range was 0.43% to 24.45%. The percentage of requests with history was 2.56% and the range was 2.52% to 2.72%.

The percentages of normal, abnormal, spoiled and missing results were 63.40, 21.61, 0.95 and 13.56 respectively. The percentages of understandability, realisticness and legibility of results were 99.16, 99.80 and 96.67 respectively.

The attitudes of medical officers were fair and there was no significant relationship between the categories of medical officers (Consultants, Grade medical officers and Intern house officers) or by year of service. The knowledge of medical officers regarding laboratory investigations was good. The attitudes and knowledge of medical laboratory technologists were fair and there was no significant association between knowledge and attitudes with their services in years. However they have poor attitudes towards automation of hospital laboratories.