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Abstract

Background: Compliance on the part of healthcare workers with standard precautions has been recognized as being an efficient means to prevent and control healthcare-associated infections. Such measures not only protect the patient, but also the HCWs and environment.

Objective: To assess knowledge, attitude and practice towards infection control measures among Mizan-Aman general hospital.

Methods: The study was conducted at Mizan-Aman General Hospital, Southwest Ethiopia. Cross-sectional study design was employed. All HCWs (135) were included in the study. Self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data. Data was entered in to Epidata 3.1 and transported to SPSS version 17 for analysis.

Results: Out of 135 respondents, 57 (42.2%) of HCWs think that they apply standard precaution always. About two-third (65.6%) of them had ever participated in training program. All of the respondents know that dirty needle and sharp materials could transmit disease causing agents. More than three fourth (76.3%) of health care workers think that they were at risk of acquiring HIV in their work place. Among HCWs 59 (43.7%) of them disposed sharp materials in open pails, 91 (67.4%) in sharp and liquid proof container without removing syringe. Ninety five (70.4%) HCWs know tháwledge; Attitude; Practice; Infection prevention;

Health facility

Nosocomial infections are infections acquired in the hospital or other health care facilities that were not present or incubating at the time of the client's admission.

body fluid may contain contagious and harmful microorganisms. Standard precautions include hand hygiene, use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), use of aseptic technique to reduce patient exposure to microorganisms and management of sharps, blood spills, linen, and waste to maintain

healthcare-associated infections. Such measures not only protect the patient, but also the HCWs and the environment. Among the standard precautions advocated, hand hygiene is considered, in itself, the most important one [3,4]. Another important measure is the adequate use of gloves, whose purpose is to protect the HCWs, as well as the patient. A preventive measure also worthy of mention is the adoption of safe practices for handling needle sticks and other sharp objects, in view of the possibility of outbreaks, especially of Hepatitis B and C, frequently associated to the offer of healthcare [4]. However, in spite of the

ucous membranes may contain transmissible infectious agents. The term standard precautions is replacing 'universal precautions' as it expands the coverage of universal precautions by recognizing that any

and percentages were calculated to all variables which were related to the objectives of the study.

The study protocol was approved by the Mizan Tepi University College of Health Sciences Institutional Research Ethics Review Committee. Official letters of cooperation was written by officials of the College of Health Sciences to Mizan Aman General Hospital. Data was collected with the consent of health care workers after they informed about the objective, procedures, potential risks, and benefits of the study. They were asked to provide accurate and honest responses. Written and signed consent forms obtained from each participant. The identification

Overcrowded work place (wards, outpatient department, lab etc)	44	32.6	11	8.1	25	18.5	16	11.9	39	28.9
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Ever had needle stick injury	39	29.6
Ever had sharp injury	32	23.4

In Ethiopia, there are few studies on standard precaution and related topics. This study contributes to determine knowledge, attitude and practice of health care workers toward standard precaution in Mizan Aman General Hospital (MAGH). The respondent's average service tenured by their current professions in health care facilities was 5.8 years. Only 89 (65%) of the respondents said that they ever had participated in any training dedicated to infection/standard precaution. This shows the inadequacy of training on standard precautions.

Twenty seven (69.2%) of the respondents consider the presence of post exposure prophylaxis after sustaining needle stick injury. This finding was much better than the result of North Wollo which indicated 31.3% of the participants consider the presence of PEP after sustaining needle stick injury [9].

Twenty nine (29.6%) of health care workers ever had needle stick injury. This was relatively lower than previous study in North Wollo which showed needle stick injury of 53.0% and south Ethiopia which had needle stick injury of 32.4% [8,9]. This difference could be achieved by the effort made on infection prevention measure.

In Mizan Aman General Hospital out of one hundred thirty five health care workers 107 (79.2%) dispose sharp materials and needle in safety box, 59 (43.7%) of respondents dispose sharp materials and

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