

PP-05-PHS

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, AND THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH PRACTICES ON PREVENTION OF HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS AMONG SELECTED HOSPITAL STAFF CATEGORIES OF TEACHING HOSPITAL KALUTARA

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Background: Healthcare associated infections (HAIs) are significant and challenging problems faced by patients as well as healthcare professionals in hospitals worldwide. This study was conducted to determine the association of knowledge and attitudes of selected hospital staff categories of Teaching Hospital Kalutara (THK) with their practices of prevention of HAIs.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted with the sample size of 304. Stratified sampling technique was applied and from each stratum of medical officers, nurses and health assistants, the study participants were randomly selected. Self – administered questionnaire was given and responses were evaluated. A standard statistical package was used to analyze the data. Scoring systems were used to divide the level of knowledge, attitude, and practice as good or poor in the questionnaire under each section. Inferential statistics with Chi-square test was used to assess the association between the knowledge and attitude with practice on prevention of HAIs. The level of significance was considered at $p < 0.05$.

Results: The majority, 72.7% (n=221) had good knowledge and 59.9% (n=182) had positive attitudes on HAIs prevention. Exceptionally, the majority 73% (n=222) had good practice suggesting, that the hospital staff categories had good knowledge with favourable attitudes associated with the good practice regarding HAIs prevention.

Conclusion: Most participants had good knowledge, positive attitude, and practice on HAIs prevention and there is a significant association between the level of knowledge and attitude with the level of practice. Future studies focused on observing the real time practices on HAIs prevention will obtain more valid and accurate outcomes.

Keywords: HAIs, Standard precautions, Patient safety, Infection control, Antimicrobial resistance