

Assessment of knowledge, attitude, and practices of adverse drug reaction reporting among health care workers in regional referral hospital in Dar es Salaam

Hans Elirehema Nnko

Master of Public Health

University of Dar es Salaam, College of Social Science, 2020

Adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) is an important cause of morbidity and mortality in the entire world. These reactions are known to be common once the drugs are taken in combination or frequently or over long periods of time. Under-reporting of adverse drug reactions among healthcare workers has been a common problem for several pharmacovigilance programs in the world. Apart from the under reporting, the lack knowledge and awareness about ADR also play a great role in the research topic understudy. The awareness on the ADR reporting should be increased through creating a training platform for healthcare workers. Healthcare workers are in exclusive position by righteousness of their profession and training to observe ADR in patients. Therefore, healthcare workers experience, knowledge, and attitudes toward ADR and ADR reporting play important role to the reporting of any cases of adverse Drug Reaction. The main objective of the study was to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices of ADR's reporting among health care workers working in Dar es Salaam Regional Referral Hospitals. A cross-sectional study with a self- administered questionnaire was employed to involve 330 healthcare workers including doctors, pharmacists, and nurses in Dar es Salaam Regional Referral Hospitals. STATA software was used for data entry, data cleaning, and consequently descriptive analysis. Key findings included most of healthcare workers in Dar es Salaam referral hospitals have limited knowledge on ADR reporting and they do not practices ADRs reporting. Only 36.33% of respondents had excellent ADRs reporting knowledge, while only 49.7% reported to have ever submitted ADRs reports to the relevant authorities. The knowledge levels correlate positively with profession and attendance of the trainings. Knowledge of ADR was 45.3% among doctors, 30.6% among nurses and 45.5% among pharmacists, inadequate training on ADR and ADR reporting, motivation, unavailability of the yellow forms in the hospital facilities and the form being too complex were found to be the main reason for the lack of knowledge among healthcare workers. Majority of healthcare workers (87%) had a positive attitude in the direction of ADRs reporting. The study concludes that healthcare workers in Dar es Salaam regional referral hospitals have inadequate knowledge on ADR's reporting. Sustained efforts should be made by the Regulatory Authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that there are ADRs reporting forms and guidelines available in hospitals. Continuous education training should be provided to the healthcare workers to enhance their ADR's reporting will sharpened the skills of the healthcare workers on the best practice of reporting. And this over

the long run will to reduction in impacts of the adverse reactions since solutions to the stated problems related to medications will be well understood among healthcare professionals.