

Results: We found work conditions for PSWs worsened during the pandemic. Worldwide PPE shortages led to conserving PPE so that PSWs often had to use the same mask for all sites they visited in a day. A shortage of workers led to creation of rapid PSW education programs and caused elevated concern about training adequacy for complex care needs. Remote assessments limited supervisors' ability to evaluate client conditions or home environments. Taking public transportation between client homes, others living in the home, and clients themselves, were seen as increasing risk of exposure to COVID-19. Participants described that PSWs may feel morally obliged to work despite the right to refuse unsafe work. Conclusion: Some emergency policies had unintended consequences that elevated risk for workers and their clients.

371

Management Of Occupational Exposure To Bloodborne Pathogens – Hiv, Hbv, Hcv, In Maputo Public Hospitals

Olegario Muanantatha

MOH, Occupational Health, Maputo, Mozambique

Background: In Low income countries, occupational blood borne pathogens exposure is a serious risk to healthcare workers (HCW). HIV, HVB and HBV infection prevalence's are the highest. Worker conditions are very poor and unsafe practices are common.

Methods: We conducted a cross-sectional study, analyzing the reports of HCWs exposed to blood borne pathogens, in 4 Maputo Public Hospitals, between 2016-2017, in order to evaluate the management of occupational blood borne accidents program. All reports forms were analyzed for key elements of the exposure management, (i)exposure reporting and its compliance with the national guideline, (ii) background education of the workers who reported exposure, (iii) assessment of infection risk – (a) type and severity of exposure, (b) infection status of worker and source person, and (iv) Treatment or follow up.

Findings: Of the 4 health care facilities, only 2 (50 %) of them, including the main national referral hospital, report the occupational accidents with blood borne pathogens, using the appropriate report form. Under-reporting is highly significant. 233 accidents were reported, 144 (63%) by males and 89 (37%) by female workers. Students and nurses reported 63 accidents (27%) each, Physicians 54 (23%) and servants 31 (13%). Needlestick injuries are largely the most prevalent type of exposure 216 (92, 7%), mucus membrane exposure 17 (7, 3%). All HCWs were tested for HIV and also the source when available. All HCWs had appropriate follow up. There is no guideline and no procedure is done for exposures related to HBV and HCV. HCWs are not been vaccinated against HBV.

Conc

372

Health Effect of Surgical Smoke and Its Associated Factors among Perioperative Healthcare Worker in Hospital Kuala Lumpur

Mohd Fikri Rosely

Universiti Putra Malaysia, Community Health Medicine, Selangor, Malaysia

Introduction: Surgical smoke is recognized as an occupational hazard containing various hazardous substances. Various acute and chronic health effects were reported among perioperative

healthcare workers. This study aimed to determine prevalence of health effects from surgical smoke exposure and its associated factors in Hospital Kuala Lumpur.

Methodology: Cross sectional study conducted among 196 perioperative healthcare workers in Hospital Kuala Lumpur using pre-tested questionnaire. A stratified proportionate random sampling was conducted in 9 surgical based departments. The questionnaire consists of sociodemographic characteristic, employment factor, surgical factor, control measure factor and health effects of surgical smoke. Data was analyzed with logistic regression analysis p value set at 0.05.

Results: Prevalence of acute health effects of surgical smoke was 55.6%. Most common symptoms reported were upper airway irritation (36.8%), headache (30.4%), eye irritation (19.4%) and asthma like symptoms (13.4%). Assisting role in surgery (AOR=11.4, 95% CI=1.5, 86.2, p<0.05), higher number of surgeries per week (AOR=14.0, 95%CI=2.2, 92.1, p<0.01) and longer duration of ESD activation (AOR=82.2, 95%CI=3.7, 18.4, p<0.01) were significant predicting factors of having at least one acute health effects of surgical smoke.

Conclusion: Three predicting factors were found to be associated with the health effects. Safety control measures should be considered to reduce the risk of health effects from surgical smoke exposure among perioperative healthcare workers.

373

A Team-level Participatory Approach Aimed at Improving Sustainable Employability of Long-term Elderly Care Workers: Preliminary Results of a Randomised Controlled Trial

Ceciel Heijkants, Madelon L.M. Van Hooff, Sabine A.E. Geurts, Cécile R.L. Boot

Radboud University, Work, Health and Performance, Nijmegen, Netherlands

Introduction: Staff currently working in elderly care experience several difficulties, including staff shortage and poor working conditions. As this poses a threat for employees' sustainable employability, it is important to fulfil employees' human basic need for autonomy, relatedness and competence.

Material and Methods: We will evaluate the Healthy Working Approach (HWA) in a randomized controlled trial in elderly care organisations working with self-managing teams. HWA is a participatory workplace intervention in which teams will uncover what problems they face related to autonomy, relatedness and competence, come up with solutions and evaluate whether the solutions had the preferred effect. The intervention and waiting-list control group will be followed over de course of one year. Linear mixed model analysis will be used to evaluate the effect on primary (need for recovery) and secondary outcomes (i.a. satisfaction of the needs for autonomy, competence and relatedness). The Ethical Committee Social Sciences of the Radboud University approved of the study (number: ECSW-2021-012).

Results and Conclusions: Baseline data includes 104 elderly care workers, mostly female (90%) and between 25 and 54 years old (64%). The mean need for recovery score is 33 (on a 0 – 100 scale). A fifth of participants score high on need for recovery (>54.5). Additional results from the six months follow-up will be presented at the conference, including the effect of the intervention on need for recovery, secondary outcomes and information about the implementation process.