

**KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND
SAFETY PRACTICES ON NEEDLE STICK AND
SHARP INJURIES AMONG NURSES AND
LABORATORY TECHNICIANS IN
YANGON GENERAL HOSPITAL AND
NEW YANGON GENERAL HOSPITAL**

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ABSTRACT

Needles stick and sharp injuries can transmit the common viral infections and associated with these injuries are Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Hepatitis B Virus and Hepatitis C Virus which can be transmitted by exposure with infected sharps or body fluid. These viral infections are major cause of danger for healthcare professionals by needles stick and sharp injuries. The objectives of this study were to assess knowledge, attitude and safety practices on needle stick and sharp injuries among nurses and laboratory technicians to determine the association between the socio-demographic characteristics and knowledge, attitude and safety practices on needle stick and sharp injuries among nurses and laboratory technicians in Yangon General Hospital and New Yangon General Hospital. The study was cross-sectional descriptive study and conducted from April to August 2022. There were 58 nurses and 9 laboratory technicians in Yangon General Hospital and 58 nurses and 2 laboratory technicians in New Yangon General Hospital who voluntarily participated by answering self-administered questionnaire. Data analysis was done by using SPSS software version 16. The major participants were females (96.9%), mean (SD) age is 35.29 (11.18) year and between the age of 18 to 40 years (66.9%). Most of the participants were nurses (90.6%) with less than 10 years work experience (51.2%). Although 93.7% placed the sharp bin container within the arm's reach of the injecting person and 87.4% disposed within correct time, majority of participants were not recapping of used needles (74.8%) and 29.9% participants never separated the needles from the syringes, 49.9% used WHO safety box to dispose used needles and 94.5% did not use plastic water bottle to dispose used needles. Regarding sharp container, (64.6%) disposed immediately into the sharp bin container. There was association between education and knowledge, attitude level, age group and practice level, work experience and practice level. There were strong association between knowledge and practice level, attitude and practice level. The study revealed that most of the participants did not follow universal precautions exactly. Therefore, continued medical education, training, refresher course for NSSI,

disposal of used needles into punctured proof containers and discouragement of recapping and separating the needles from the syringe after injection should be conducted to nurses and laboratory technicians.