



KNOWLEDGE ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES OF NURSES ON BLOOD SAMPLE COLLECTION: A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY

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Laboratory errors pose a great impact on patient care and safety. About 70% of laboratory errors occur during pre-analytical phase where sample collection takes place. Nurses often assume the responsibility of specimen collection in healthcare setting in Sri Lanka. It is of paramount importance to study about knowledge, attitudes and practices of nurses on blood sample collection in order to see whether these aspects demand improvements. Objective of this research was to assess knowledge, attitudes and practice of nurses on blood sample collection in Teaching Hospital, Karapitiya (THK). A pre-tested, self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data from 200 nurses. Factors affecting the knowledge scores were also studied. Data were analyzed using SPSS. Participants whose knowledge score was below 50% were ranked into poor level, between 50% to 70% into average level, between 70% to 85% into good level and above 85% into excellent level. Mean knowledge score was 66.79 (SD±12.77). Among the participants only 5.5% (n=11) were in the excellent level, 38% (n=76) in the good level, 43% (n=86) in the average level and 13.5% (n=27) in the poor level. The knowledge score was significantly higher in undergraduates (75.17±12.96) compared to diploma holders (66.09±12.58, p=0.008). Knowledge score was significantly higher in nurses at ETU (72.83±11.18) compared to that of the medical (66.30±10.59, p=0.016), surgical (65.23±13.10, p=0.006) and pediatrics wards (65.02±16.16). Knowledge scores of the nurses were not significantly different with respect to their age, gender or work experiences. Nurses' attitudes on blood sample collection were positive. However, several lapses in the practice on the same aspect were observed. Study concluded that although overall knowledge of the nurses in THK was satisfactory regarding blood sample collection, knowledge on correct volume of blood needed for specific investigations, choosing of suitable sites for blood drawing and practices such as provision of duly filled investigation forms and label are to be improved. The value of educational and training programs for nurses in order to enhance the quality of blood sample collection and evaluation of their effectiveness is emphasized.

Keywords: *Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices, Nurses, Blood sample collection*