

Pattern of antenatal care (ANC) services utilisation and the determinants of choosing government facilities for ANC services in Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

Background: Antenatal care (ANC) services in Malaysia are provided mainly by the government and also private health facilities to ensure the optimisation of pregnant women's health throughout their pregnancy. This study describes the pattern of utilisation in both facilities and the socio-demographic determinants of choosing government facilities among mother who had live birth between July and December 2014. **Methods:** Data was obtained from a nationwide survey focusing on primary immunization coverage in 2016. A total of 17,330 living quarters (LQs) were randomly selected with consideration of 50% non-response due to higher rate of inter-state migration among the respondents. Out of 11,388 eligible LQs, 10,140 were successfully interviewed with a response rate of 89.0% at LQ level. Face to face interviewed using a validated questionnaires and assessment of antenatal cards were conducted among the respondents by trained data collectors. Descriptive and multivariate logistic regression analyses were conducted and the results were presented as adjusted odds ratio (aOR) with p-value <0.05 considered to be significant. **Results:** There were 7106 mothers who had live birth between July and December 2014 and utilized both ANC and childbirth services. The overall utilisation was 85.9%; (95%CI: 81.7-89.3) in government facilities and 14.1%; (95%CI: 10.7-18.3) in private facilities. The top rank of private facilities utilisation for ANC was observed in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor and Pulau Pinang; at 32.8%, 28.2% and 24.8% respectively. The determinants of choosing governments facilities were lower household income quintile, all ethnics except Chinese ethnicity, working in public sector, mothers with lower educational level, mothers with health problems, younger age and rural location. **Conclusion:** The proportion of ANC services utilisation is higher for government facilities in all states, although the percentage is lower in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor and Pulau Pinang. Socio-demographics factors and having health problems are strong determinants for utilisation of government facilities.

Med J Malaysia Vol 72 Supplement 1 August 2017:A147

Perception of doctors towards nursing practice skills among newly graduated nurses in MOH Hospitals

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: A nurse displays competence by successfully performing their work at an expected level. Regardless of public and private place of graduate, nursing skills developed over a period of time. Competence assessment may be conducted by their peers as well as supervisors at beginning of employment. Therefore, nursing practice skills perceived by medical doctors towards their newly employed nurses are shared. **Method:** A cross sectional study conducted between months of April to September 2015. A systematic random sampling had selected 450 employed nurses who graduated from public and private institutions respectively. Each nurse assessed their own perception on items related to nursing practices using a self-administered questionnaire. Subsequently in separate occasion, doctors working within the same medical disciplines with the participated nurses were invited to assess their identified nurses using the same questionnaires. **Results:** With regards to place of graduate, as much as 75% (n=339) public graduated nurses and 87% (n=393) of private nurses responded to the study. Both nurses from public and private institutions perceived themselves to be skilful in their practices with the percentage of 92.0% (n=339) and 91.6% (n=393) respectively. On the other hand, about 84.7% of those graduated from private training institutions and 88.2% nurses from public training institutions were perceived skilful by their medical doctors. There was an issue on items interpretation of lab results and ability to act promptly, discuss with doctor regarding condition of patient and assessment of patient on admission perceived by doctors towards their first-year nurses in service and younger aged nurses who had graduated from public nursing institutions. **Conclusion:** The identification of areas for improvements perceived among newly employed nurses may assist the nursing authorities planning for further assessment. Thus, ensuring nursing skills matched with clinical needs in MOH Hospitals.