Evaluation of The Impact of Primary Healthcare Enhancement Programme: Malaysia's Experience

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Non-communicable diseases (NCD) lead to substantial mortality and morbidity worldwide. Malaysia is currently experiencing the epidemic of NCDs. In response to this challenge, an intervention package known as Enhanced Primary Health Care (EnPHC) has been designed by the Ministry of Health to improve the primary healthcare programme and service delivery related the non-communicable diseases. The intervention was piloted in 20 health clinics in Malaysia. This paper describes the evaluation of impacts of the intervention programme. **METHODS:** In measuring the impact of the intervention, 20 matched control health clinics were selected. The evaluation of EnPHC was divided into two types, i.e. outcome evaluation and process evaluation. The outcome evaluation was done through population-based survey and facility-based survey at the pre and post intervention. The process evaluation was done through qualitative studies on patients and healthcare providers. A difference-in-difference (DID) analysis was used to measure the effect of EnPHC interventions. **RESULTS:** The prevalence of screening for diabetes mellitus, hypertension and hypercholesterolemia increased by 8.7%, 9.9% and 9.2% respectively. The prevalence of undiagnosed diabetes mellitus and hypercholesterolemia decreased by 17.6% and 13.7%. Based on the facility survey, the proportion of HbA1c test done among diabetes patients has increased 29% in intervention clinics. Based on process evaluation, some interventions have positive perception among the ground implementers, especially in improving patients' NCD care management. Although patient cannot identify interventions, but they can detect changes in services, make critical appraisal and recognise its impact on their health **CONCLUSION:** Beneficial changes were noted in the intervention clinics in relation to NCD healthcare services. The positive outcome of this evaluation support further strengthening and scaling up of the intervention programme.

KEYWORDS: non-communicable disease, enhanced primary healthcare, primary healthcare intervention, community intervention, evaluation

Usage of Recompression Therapy in Malaysia: Cases Review

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Recompression Therapy or Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy is well established treatment modality for "the bends" or known as Decompression Illness. Few centres in Malaysia, pioneered by Malaysian Armed Forces. Usage of the therapy had been applied for chronic wound such as diabetic wound, post revascularization peripheral arterial disease and many others type of wound. Apart from that, post radiation injury patients were included and showed good relative recovery rate compared to current standard therapy. In addition, injured athletes among the serviceman had shortened their period of return to full duty with the addition of clinical Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy. Significant survival of victim of Hydrogen Sulphide poisoning may change the approach from adjunct to mainstream therapy. Positive impacts were seen from some other patients that suffer from burn, abscess, post graft, and sensorineural hearing loss. **CONCLUSION:** Malaysia may explore more in this field of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for the better care of future generation.

KEYWORDS: Malaysian Armed Forces, recompression therapy, decompression illness