

# Sociodemographic Characteristics of Healthcare Staff in a Lead Cluster Hospital

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** The increasing feminisation of the healthcare workforce has been reported in Malaysia and globally, leading to challenges in human resources for health and policy implications for the future. Hence, the objective of our study was to determine the demographics of the healthcare staff at Hospital Seberang Jaya (HSJ), Penang. **Methods:** An online survey was conducted from November 2020 to December 2020. A questionnaire was sent out to the healthcare staff of HSJ to enquire about some basic sociodemographic features like gender, age, marital status, ethnicity and religion. **Results:** Female respondents had a mean (SD) age of 34.3 (7.6) years and male respondents were slightly younger with a mean (SD) age of 32.9 (7.3) years. The trend in ethnicity was similar in both male and female groups. The majority of the respondents were Malays, followed by Chinese and Indians. This also correlated with the pattern observed for religious affiliation where Islam was the most common religion practiced by both males (57.0%) and female respondents (77.2%). In addition, more than 60% of the male respondents and close to 80% of the female respondents were married. Generally, there were more male respondents smoking (7.6% versus 1.8%) and reporting alcohol use (15.2% versus 4.1%). More than 95% of the female respondents claimed that they did not smoke and drink. **Conclusion:** The healthcare workforce at HSJ were predominantly females in their 30s. A future study to examine the differences between the genders in earnings is warranted.

PP-27

# Aspirin Administration for Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) in Emergency Department (ED) and Pre-hospital Care (PHC) at Cluster Hospitals in Central Selangor: A Prospective Study

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Early aspirin administration has been shown to significantly reduce acute myocardial infarction mortality rate in acute coronary syndrome (ACS) patients. Various guidelines mention to give aspirin early but the knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) of healthcare workers (HCWs) in Emergency Department (ED) and Pre-hospital Care (PHC) regarding aspirin administration has not been explored. This study aimed to investigate the KAP of aspirin administration among ACS patients in ED and PHC in cluster hospitals in Selangor, Malaysia. **Methods:** This was a multi-centre, cross-sectional questionnaire-based study conducted in cluster hospitals in central Selangor. Doctors, nurses and medical assistants working in the ED and PHC were randomly sampled to answer a questionnaire. The questionnaire was validated by seniors in the ED and PHC with cardiac post-basic and a pilot study was conducted prior to data collection. **Results:** A total of 272 responses were obtained, with fair distribution in gender and professions. Most of the responders were 20-30 years old (n=180, 66.2%) and with 1-5 years working experience (n=202, 74.2%). About 50% of responders were aware that aspirin is the first drug given and 70-89% of them practice giving aspirin as the first drug (doctors=89.4%, medical assistants=80%, nurses=69.9%). Majority (>90%) served aspirin correctly, either crush, dissolve and swallow or chew and swallow. Less than half would serve aspirin if patient is allergic to painkillers such as mefenemic acid (doctors=44.7%, medical assistants=44.2%, nurses=43.5%). **Conclusion:** Overall, HCWs in ED and PHC had high tendency to serve aspirin to ACS patients but they need to be more confident when upon encountering patients with contraindications or hypersensitivity to aspirin.