

Factors affecting quality of nursing care for dengue patients at National Referral Hospital(NRH)



Brief Background

- ▶ Solomon Islands have had dengue-like illnesses circulating in 1982 and
- ▶ deaths attributed to dengue-like illness between 1995 and 1996. (Darcy, et al., 2001)
- ▶ First dengue outbreak in 2013:
 - ▶ 5,254 cases, 401 hospitalizations, 6 deaths in only five months (Nogareda, et al., 2013)
- ▶ Second dengue outbreak in 2016:
 - ▶ 12,250 (reported) cases, 851 hospitalizations and 15 deaths in seven months

Research Question:

What are the factors affecting the quality of nursing care for dengue-admitted patients at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara?

Methods

- ▶ Descriptive qualitative study
- ▶ Three Focus Group Discussions were held for participating nurses and a Key Informant was interviewed.
- ▶ FGD was done in the local pijin dialect, with audio recordings taken during the discussions and was later transcribed to english.
- ▶ Thematic data analysis was used.

- ▶ Why National Referral Hospital?

NRH was the epi-centre of the 2016 outbreak. 90% of the cases came from Honiara and Guadalcanal alone.

Results

Nurses perspective

- ❖ **Knowledge about the disease**
 - ❑ Protocols and guidelines in managing dengue
- ❖ **Incentives for nurses**
 - ❑ Incentives from the government through the MOH is expected.
- ❖ **Planning and preparedness**
 - ❑ Unavailability of space for admissions during outbreak.
 - ❑ Lack of basic equipment to use. (eg BP machines, stethoscopes, thermometers etc)

Key informant's perspective

- ❖ **Strain on the human resource**
- ❖ **Reduced resilience in the staff**
 - ❑ As the outbreak continues on, absenteeism among the staff becomes very high.
- ❖ **Delayed laboratory test results**
 - ❑ The capacity of the NRH lab was also stretched and results of dengue tests were delayed for proper diagnosis of patients.

Conclusion

- ▶ This study has identified major factors that affected the quality of nursing care for dengue admitted patients at NRH during the 2016 dengue outbreak.
- ▶ Although small, this research will be very beneficial to the Solomon Islands in improving nursing care for dengue patients and the overall delivery of care within the health care system

Recommendations

- ▶ Action needs to be taken to address these factors
- ▶ Ongoing research
- ▶ Better co-ordination
- ▶ Better communication to ensure staff understand processes and governance within an outbreak situation
- ▶ Clinical training to be well coordinated among staff to ensure a greater majority have access to training.