

Knowledge and Practice of General Practitioners about Surveillance System

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Background: Surveillance is collecting, analysis, interpretation of data and distribution of information on a health event. This information can be used by health authorities for planning, implementation and assessment of health programs and activities. This study aimed to assess knowledge and practice of general practitioners (GPs) about Surveillance System in under-coverage area of Shahid Beheshti Medical Sciences University, Tehran, Iran.

Materials and methods: Through a cross-sectional health system research 672 GPs who were working in their private offices in north and west of Tehran in 2008-9, randomly selected. These GPs were selected using sampling framework of private sector physicians of subsecretary for treatment, disease control unit and north, west and Shemiranat health centers. Data gathering has done using questionnaire, interview and inspection.

Results: Among 672 participated GPs, 320 (47.6%) during their lifetime practice and 124 (18.5%) during past year reported averagely 3.6 and totally 450 cases. Fifty five percent of GPs were aware of appropriate time of disease report. More cases were reported by GPs used related posters in their office, who had more knowledge and have been working in health sector.

Conclusion: Private sector GPs participation in reporting targeted diseases is in low level. Limited knowledge, inappropriate broadcasting, follow-up, feedback and distribution of collected data were introduced as influencing factors.

Keywords: Knowledge, practice, general practitioner, surveillance system, reporting, notifiable communicable diseases