

Exploring the Understanding About Routine Health Data Quality: Oral Healthcare Personnel Perspective

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: A high-quality routine oral health data is critical for planning, financing, monitoring, and evaluation of programs and activities. However, the term quality is subject to various interpretation and meaning by a different individual involved in the process. Therefore, this study intended to explore the understanding of health data quality among oral healthcare personnel. **METHODS:** A phenomenology study conducted from March to April 2019 among the public oral health facilities in Kelantan, Malaysia. A total of 64 oral health care personnel invited to eight focus group discussions (FGD) to collect the desired data. Purposive sampling technique was applied to identify the eligible participants. The obtained data were then analysed using the thematic analysis methods using ATLAS.ti software Version 8. **RESULT:** A total of 59 (92.1%) participants consented to participate. The study revealed 16 codes related to the understanding of health data quality (correctness, timeliness, work process, as a measurement tool and indicator of excellence, quantity or amount of data, traceability, transparency in reporting, data user needs, completeness, reproducible, usability, speed, objectivity, standardise and understandable). These codes clustered into three themes; content of the data, comprehension of the data handler and the work process in generating the data. **CONCLUSION:** This study demonstrates the multifaceted nature of health data quality understanding among participants. These findings may be of use to researchers and decision-makers who wish to comprehend the value of health data quality or recommend intervention for quality improvement.

KEYWORDS: qualitative research, healthcare personnel, data accuracy, focus groups

Factors Associated with Delayed Sputum Conversion Among Smear Positive Pulmonary Tuberculosis in WP Labuan

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: In Labuan, smear positive tuberculosis (TB) is one of the major health problems. Smear positive tuberculosis carries high morbidity and mortality. Sputum smear conversion at the end of the intensive phase is also an indicator of TB programme performance. The rationale of the study is to describe the sociodemographic characteristic of smear positive and to determine factors associated with delayed sputum conversion among smear positive PTB in WP Labuan. **METHODS:** A cross-sectional study with universal sampling of all smear positive PTB cases from January 2015 to September 2017 excluding smear positive PTB that did not complete intensive phase and MDR TB. **RESULTS:** Among 176 smears positive PTB cases, 68.9% cases are Malaysian with majority are male (73.2%), non smokers (62.5%), non substance abuser (96.6%) and with no past history of tuberculosis (92.6%). We found that in delayed sputum conversion cases (51 cases), majority present with high smear grading (3+) (49.0%) with absent cavitation (60.8%) in radiological findings but what strike out to be significant factor is the present of bilateral radiological involvement (76.5%). **DISCUSSION:** From the study, males and bilateral radiologic lesion are identified as significant factors associated with delayed sputum conversion among patients with smear positive pulmonary tuberculosis in WP Labuan. Therefore, enhance community screening and empower community awareness are important steps in controlling tuberculosis at WP Labuan.

KEYWORDS: smear positive pulmonary tuberculosis, labuan