

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE (EMS) – ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Problem Statement

It has been observed that due to geographical barrier, transportation of emergency patients takes longer period in Arunachal Pradesh. Further, it has been also observed that when emergency case reaches the PHC, medical staff will run here and there to find the required medicines, instruments or equipments. This way also there is delay in attending the patient. The case may be even worse if the PHC/CHC located either in remote hilly area or an inaccessible area to reach through roadways.

Program Description

To save the time in order to address the emergency patient, Karuna Trust started Emergency Medical Service in its PHCs which is quite unique in its nature. Karuna Trust has developed a guideline and a reporting format for the mentioned (attached here is the guideline). The guideline not only speaks how to provide the services but also includes annexure of IEC/BCC materials to be used by the staffs during the handling of emergency time. It has also been mentioned that the IEC materials should be hanged in the emergency rooms for ready reference. The basic objective of the program is to save the life of

emergency patient, to save the time in searching the emergency medicines & to provide quality treatment in emergencies.

For the purpose a room of the PHC building is converted to an emergency room where all emergency & life savings medicines are kept together in such a way that it is available for the Doctors at the time of emergency. A drug toolkit is prepared with several compartment and hanged in this room. In each compartment, a label pasted and particular drug/item is kept. Along with this, there is a poster on ABC management while effective management of Obstetrical emergencies and Neonatal emergencies are also kept on the walls so that all can see. Life savings medicines, surgical items, ambu bags etc are kept in this toolkit. Two days long first training was given in Karnataka followed by two trainings per year have been organized in Arunachal to train the new staff

Program Impact

Because of the emergency medical services during the year 2012-2013, following emergency cases were attended in the PHCs/CHCs run by Karuna Trust in Arunachal Pradesh.

Emergencies	Total
Chest Pain	33
Respiratory Distress	25
Snake bite	9
Dog bite	13
Poisoning	5
Fits	1
Anaphylaxis	2
Trauma and/or fractures	39
Acute Abdomen	52
Burns	21
Emergency Delivery cases brought in ambulance	11
Premature labour	1
Obstructed labour or fetal distress	3
Birth asphyxia	2
ARI	71
Severe dehydration	65
Malaria	13

Scalability

This may be a tiny step but big step to create a system where all the emergency tool kit kept in a room reserved for emergency only. Because it has been observed that in so many hospitals in the emergency room when an emergency patient comes, the tool kit has to be searched for where it was kept. That is why not these simple steps may be followed so that life may be saved within seconds rather being late by searching tool kit to handle the emergencies. This may be followed either in a hilly terrain like Arunachal Pradesh or in a plain area too so that life may be saved. This needs no extra money but need an extra effort from the part of the hospital superintendent.

Conclusion

Though this is happening in Arunachal Pradesh but still it is confined to only those PHCs/ CHCs run by the Non- governmental organization. The hospitals run by the government need to follow up the same kind of procedure in Arunachal Pradesh so that life can be saved by saving time to handle emergencies.

Person to be contacted

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