



Ministry of Health  
Republic of Maldives

# Maldives Health Research Bulletin

Volume VI



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## FOREWARD

The Maldives Health Research Bulletin is published once a year by the Ministry of Health in an effort to establish a research culture in the country. The main objectives of publishing a health research bulletin include (1) to create a common platform for students, researchers and other stakeholders to gain easy access to health research materials relevant to Maldivian context, (2) to provide technical support to students and researchers by providing information related to existing and ongoing research as well as by highlighting the health research priority areas and (3) to ensure that research is conducted in line with national health research priority areas in accordance with legislation of Maldives and the standards of World Health Organization.

The sixth volume of the Maldives Health Research Bulletin consists of six abstracts of completed research, information on ongoing research, Health Research Priority areas 2017-2019 as well as an overview of the National Health Research Committee and research approval process. It is anticipated that the information provided by the health research bulletin will facilitate the development, evaluation and monitoring of policies and programs in the health field.

The Ministry of Health would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the Maldives Health Research Bulletin development team of the Health Information and Research Section of Policy Planning and International Health Division at the Ministry. Additionally, the Ministry of Health acknowledges and highly appreciates the efforts of health researchers, including contributors of this bulletin. It is hoped that the research conducted in this area would support the development of the health sector of Maldives as well as contribute to evidence based policy making to strengthen the health interventions in the sector.

Abdulla Ameen  
Minister of Health

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Republic of Maldives  
Tel: +960 3328887  
Fax: +960 3328889  
Email: [ppd@health.gov.mv](mailto:ppd@health.gov.mv)  
Website: [www.health.gov.mv](http://www.health.gov.mv)

**Data Compilation:** Neena Mohamed (Intern, MoH)

**Data Verification:** Aishath Samiya (Deputy Director General, PIH, MoH)  
Moomina Abdullah (Director, PIH, MoH)

**Layout & Design:** Neena Mohamed (Intern, MoH)

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## Nurses' knowledge, attitude and current practices towards caring of stroke patient at Indhira Gandhi Memorial Hospital Male' Maldives

**Author: Siyama Ali Saleem**

**Research duration: January 2017 – January 2018**

### Objectives

To assess nurses' knowledge, attitude and current practices towards caring of stroke patients at Indhira Gandhi Memorial Hospital Male' Maldives.

### Research Question

1. What is the knowledge level of nurses towards caring of stroke patients at IGMH?
2. What is the attitude of nurses towards caring of stroke patients at IGMH?
3. What are the current practices of nurses towards caring of stroke patients at IGMH?

### Rationale and justification

Delivering quality care for stroke patients depend on the health provider's knowledge, attitude, and practice. The knowledge, attitude and current practices of IGMH nurses are known by doing this research. This study has also provided baseline data for IGMH to explore factors affecting nurses' knowledge attitude and current practices towards caring for stroke patients. The gaps in nurse's knowledge, attitude and current practices, the variation of knowledge, attitude and practices among demographic variables and the relationship between nurse's knowledge, attitude and current practices are known. Doing such a study in a hospital with a large number of employees would improve nurse's general knowledge, attitude and current practices towards caring for stroke patients at IGMH.

### Methodology

The study design selected for this study was a quantitative research design. A self-administered questionnaire was administered to 159 nurses of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital. The

advantage of selecting a cross-sectional survey is that it is less expensive compared to other types of survey methods. The setting selected for this study was IGMH ( Medical ward, Surgical ward, ICU, Emergency Room, Private ward 1-4, Orthopedics ward). The sampling method selected for this study was probability simple random sampling. The total amount of nurses involved actively in stroke care is 270. Rao soft was used to get required sample size for this study. To get 95 % confidence interval with a response rate of 50 %, the calculated sample size for this study was determined as 159 nurses from the required population.

### Results/Findings

All 159 participants completed the questionnaire. Majority of the participants had satisfactory level of knowledge, positive attitude and poor practices.

### Implications

The results of this study have implications on nursing education, practice and future research in Maldives at IGMH. It provides baseline data required to redesign educational activities within the nursing employees of IGMH.

### Conclusion

The result of this study suggests that it is necessary to educate nurses about stroke care to provide better care practices. The knowledge and current practices were found to be poor although majority of the participants had positive attitude. There is a gap that needs to be filled through planning and implementation of educational and orientation programs targeted towards nurses working at IGMH.

## Knowledge on health effects and current practice towards arecanut use among secondary school children living in Male' city, Maldives

**Author: Dr. Abdul Azeez Hameed**

**Duration: May 2017 – January 2018**

### Objectives

- To identify the knowledge on health effects of arecanut use among secondary school children living in Male' city of Maldives.
- To identify the current practice towards arecanut use among secondary school children living in Male' city of Maldives.

### Research Question

1. Do the secondary school children living in Male' city have adequate level of knowledge on health effects of arecanut use?
2. What is the current practice regarding arecanut use among secondary school children living in Male' city?

### Rationale and justification

The scope of the study was to assess and identify knowledge on health effects and current practice regarding arecanut use among secondary school children in Male' city of Maldives.

Oral health hygiene problems are increasing among school children in Maldives. Dental caries and other oral health problems were the major burden among younger school children in Maldives as reported in recently conducted school health surveys (MOE, 2016). School going children lack knowledge, attitude and practice regarding arecanut use (Walia, et al., 2015 & Goyal, et al., 2016). Research on knowledge and practice regarding arecanut use among adolescents in Maldives is lacking, hence it is necessary to assess the knowledge and practice among secondary school children towards arecanut use.

### Methodology

A cross-sectional survey was conducted using pre-coded questionnaire. A total of 1350 questionnaires were distributed to

the secondary school students studying at selected schools in Male' city and 804 questionnaires were returned. The total target population was 5297. The schools were selected through cluster sampling, while the students were selected via simple random sampling. The calculated sample size consists of 674 students which were equally selected from both genders. Data analyses were executed by using Excel and SPSS 21 software. Descriptive statistics and non-parametric tests were performed. Ethical approval was obtained from Villa College as well as from the National Health Research Committee at Ministry of Health.

### Results/Findings

Secondary school children in Male' city have inadequate knowledge on harmful effects of arecanut use. The knowledge among secondary school children varies based on their gender, grade, school, and residence but does not vary based on their age. The knowledge on harmful effects of arecanut use is more among girls, students in grade 9, students studying at Rehendhi school, and more among those living in both Hulhumale' and Vilimale' than those living in Male'.

The students started arecanut use mainly at age between 11-15 years (52.4%). Arecanut was introduced by either family members (53.7%) or friends (20.9%) among large number of school children. Less than half (46.4%) of participants used arecanut at least once a day, consumed less than one packet (41.8%) of supari daily and chewed arecanut for more than 2 years of duration (44.8%). Boys start arecanut use earlier, frequency, duration, and daily consumption is higher among boys than girls.

**Implications**

This research gives a picture about the habit of arecanut use among secondary school children in Male' city, which will help policy makers to initiate action to curb the use of arecanut among the younger population. It also may encourage government authorities to conduct population based survey to identify the prevalence of arecanut use among adolescents in Maldives as well among adult population.

**Conclusion**

Secondary school children have inadequate knowledge on harmful effects of arecanut use. Supari is the main form of

arecanut use and most of the students initiated the habit at a younger age, which is an alarming threat to the society. Hence, there is an urgent need to start school based preventive programs, community awareness programs, for school children, teachers, parents, and general public at large as stopping the starting of a habit is much easier than quitting of same habit.

**Research document available at:**

- Journal of Global Oncology:  
<http://ascopubs.org/doi/abs/10.1200/jgo.18.35600>
- Villa College Library

## Reasons for non-compliance with iron chelation therapy among adult Thalassaemia patients: A case study

**Authors:** Gulisthan Easa, Asiya Ibrahim

**Duration:** February 2016 – November 2016

**Objective**

The aim of this study is to explore the reasons for non-compliance with iron chelation therapy among adult Thalassaemia patients who are living in Male'.

**Rationale and justification**

Thalassaemia is a genetic disorder which affects the production of hemoglobin. This results in repeated blood transfusion. Repeated blood transfusion causes iron to accumulate in their body. When the human body has no proper mechanism for elimination of excess iron in the body, it piles up in the body causing damage to vital organs. When this piles up to a toxic level, death is inevitable due to cardiac failure. It is evident that the main reason for premature deaths among Thalassaemia major patients in the country is due to cardiac failure from iron overload. Even though, cardiac failure due to iron overload was identified as the leading cause of death among adult Thalassaemia major in the Maldives, the reason for non-compliance have not been investigated.

**Methodology**

A cross-sectional survey was conducted using pre-coded

questionnaire. A total of 350 questionnaires were distributed to the secondary school students studying at selected schools in Male' city and 804 questionnaires were returned. The total target population was 5297. The schools were selected through cluster sampling, while the students were selected via simple random sampling.

**Results/Findings**

Finding of the study showed that age plays an important role in compliance. While family cohesion and support from society influence compliance, depression was found to have a significant impact on patients' compliance.

**Conclusion**

As evident from this study, many factors identified as contributing factors for poor compliance. A strong Thalassaemia management protocol needs to be developed which will address patient education, education for healthcare professionals and parents. Psychological support is critical in improving compliance. This study also calls for another similar study to be conducted in the islands to explore the factors contributing to poor compliance among patients living in the islands.

## Newly graduated nurses' experiences in transition to practice: A phenomenological approach

**Author:** Hawwa Irasha Adam

**Duration:** January 2018 – July 2018

### Objective

The aim of this study is to learn the experiences of the newly graduated nurses in their first year as a nurse.

### Research questions

1. How are the graduate nurses coping or surviving and what would be the changes that they would like to see to help them overcome the newbie challenges they face?
2. What happens during transition period, if preceptorship is not established?
3. What are the expectations of a newly graduated nurse when the nurse becomes part of the medical team?

### Rationale and Justification

To become a registered nurse, students at the School of Nursing of the Maldives National University spend more than three years enrolled, and are exposed to clinical experience under supervision. The transition from a student to a registered nurse is challenging and stressful. This period is the most important time that shapes the future of the nurse. An effective preceptorship was one recommendation that came out from extensive research elsewhere, and this is widely practiced in hospitals in developed countries. There is no evidence of a similar research in the Maldives. Therefore, this research is an attempt at addressing this critical knowledge gap.

Given the national development infrastructure occurring at Hulhumale' Hospital (HMH), it is situated to become one of the central health service providers in the country, and is the focus of this research.

### Methodology

Phenomenology is used as the underlying research approach as the aim of the research is to seek out perceptions and lived

experiences of newly graduated nurses. In-depth individual interviews were conducted with 7 nurses purposely selected with the inclusive criteria of: newly graduated nurses within the preceding six months with a Diploma or Bachelor Degree in Nursing; nurses who do shift duties at Hulhumale' Hospital (HMH); and Maldives citizen. Because of the in-depth nature of the interviews as well as the small scale of research a minimum of 5 nurses was targeted, also being mindful of data saturation, and therefore sample size was increased to 7 participants.

### Results/Findings

The findings from the research highlight the importance of: orientation on transition or probation period; preceptorship or mentoring. Further to this, a rich set of data was gathered on the experiences and expectations of a newly graduate nurse which is important for the development of future plans and to improve the support system for new recruits of Hulhumale' Hospital (HMH) for the strengthening of nursing care.

### Implications

This study will provide guidance for creating orientation programs, develop preceptorship, and build strategies to promote retention of new graduates. This will help newly graduated nurses in their clinical work settings during their transition period, thus improves the quality of care delivered by these nurses. It is believed that the findings from this research will be an asset to improve the nursing care as the newly graduate nurses will get proper guidance in transitioning to become competent nurses.



**Conclusion**

The transition to practice were noted to be helpful when they were guided and they expected more support from experienced nurses. Moreover, a good orientation and induction program were suggested by the participants. The importance of a preceptorship was highlighted by most of the participants.

This research helps in recruiting new nurses in HMH in future, as the participants have shared their valuable experiences, and this has highlighted the importance of giving good and adequate guidance to a Newly Graduated Nurse.

## **Factors leading to prolonged mechanical ventilation in intensive care unit of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital: A qualitative study**

**Author: Aishath Shifaly**

**Duration: February 2016 – November 2016**

**Objectives**

This research aimed to study and explore the factors leading to prolonged mechanical ventilation in the intensive care unit of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH).

**Rationale and justification**

Existing literature highlights that prolonged mechanical ventilation has increased the intensive care unit stay, high death rate and correspondingly high cost of care. Due to the severity of this condition, health practice demands to identify the factors that prolong the weaning process in order to provide appropriate care for better patient outcome in the critical care setting. Understanding and identifying the reasons for difficult weaning, mostly while managing long-term ventilated patients with severe respiratory conditions and challenging weaning from mechanical ventilation has become complicated in the present practice. Therefore reasons towards identifying these factors have become essential in critical care unit.

**Methodology**

A descriptive qualitative approach was used to investigate in-depth view of nurses, and clinicians managing mechanically ventilated patients in intensive care unit (ICU). Participants were interviewed to explore the factors leading to prolonged

mechanical ventilation according to their experiences as critical care nurses and doctors working in ICU of IGMH and the data were analyzed thematically. The facts and records were analyzed using the process according to Colaizzi's seven step approach. Findings of the study identified that there are many reasons for patient's prolonged stay on mechanical ventilator. Three major descriptive predominant themes were identified. The first theme is clinicians' role and scope of practice with two sub-themes known as *extended practice of sedative agents and absence of adequate nutritional and psychological support*. The second theme is disease-imposed factors with its sub-theme of *hospital acquired infection*. The third theme is known as the organizational structure or practice environment with its sub-themes of *no protocol, lack of resources, lack of knowledge and staff competency* as predictors of prolonged mechanical ventilation.

**Results/Findings**

The findings of this study offered insight into aspects of clinical practice, disease-imposed factors and organizational structure or practice environment that need to be addressed to overcome the incidence of prolonged mechanical ventilation. Hence a confident and safe care is to be provided for long-term ventilated patients through evidence based care that encourage

professional practice. Study also indicates the need for educational support for nurses working in ICU at all levels to increase confidence and self-sufficiency in taking critical decisions to manage prolonged mechanical ventilation (PMV) patients. Lastly, new concepts and areas of practice were recognized for further research on mechanically ventilated patients including weaning practices and protocols used to manage PMV patients. Study also explained that prolonged mechanical ventilation is a challenging condition, however factors leading to PMV if identified proper action can be taken. An appropriate assessment of all the precipitating factors is essential for avoiding prolonged mechanical ventilation patients in IGMH, ICU.

### **Conclusion**

Mechanical ventilation is a life-saving technological intervention for patients whose respiratory function is compromised due to acute or chronic disease. Numerous critical conditions

result toward respiratory failure and Mechanical ventilation (MV) is a key component in the line of treatment. However, it can cause various adverse effects. Any delay in weaning may increase the number of complications and lead to greater expense. A prolonged period of mechanical ventilation is expensive for both patient, and health care system in terms of adverse effects. Hence identifying predictors of prolonged mechanical ventilation and prompt action for, liberation, from mechanical ventilation to establish spontaneous breathing is extremely important as it allows the optimization of those patients at higher risk.

## Patients' Satisfaction towards Nursing Care Provided in Ward B of Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital

**Author: Saushan Rasheed**

**Duration: December 2017 – June 2018**

### Objectives

- To identify the satisfaction level of obstetrics and gynecological patients towards nursing provided at IGMH.
- To describe the frequency of background variables of patients' admitted in Ward B of IGMH.
- To identify the relationship between the background variables (age, education level, marital status, previous admission in Ward B and health insurance status) and level of satisfaction.

### Research Question

What is the level of satisfaction of obstetric and gynecological patients' towards nursing care provided at IGMH?

### Rationale and justification

By measuring patient satisfaction, possible problems and ideas for improvement of quality of care can be identified (Stewart et al., 2017). As nurses' are the staff who spend majority of time with the patients', they have an important role in promoting the nursing profession and the health care institution (Benceković, 2016). The main reason to increase patient satisfaction is that if the patients are satisfied, they will not only return to the healthcare facility from which they received quality care, but there is also high chance that they will recommend the facility to family and friends (Goh & Katri, 2016). This study is important to identify the satisfaction of Obstetric and Gynaecological patients' towards nursing care provided at Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital (IGMH). This study is vital, to grasp the level of satisfaction of patients, as there are no studies conducted on this area in the Maldives so far. Additionally, by conducting this study, it is possible to understand level of patients' satisfaction, shortcomings of nursing care and the

relationship between patient characteristics and level of satisfaction. Importantly, the study results will be valuable, to improve the quality of nursing care. Moreover, this study will show an insight to quality of nursing care provided at IGMH.

### Methodology

This is a quantitative study. This study utilized cross sectional design to identify patients' satisfaction towards nursing care provided in Ward B of IGMH. This study has further applied descriptive and correlational design in order to describe the background variables of the patient and to find the relationship between the background variable and satisfaction level.

The target population of this study is patients who are discharged from ward B from 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 till 150 patients are reached.

Consecutive sampling is the sampling method of the study. The total population within 1 year; from March 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 to March 7<sup>th</sup> 2017, is 771. Yamane's Formula (Yamane, 1964) was used to calculate the sample size of this research.

$$n = \frac{N}{(1 + N)e^2}$$

n = sample size,  
N = population size,  
e = Margin of error (MoE).  
Margin of error for this research is 10%

$$n = \frac{771}{(1+771)0.10^2}$$

$$n = \frac{771}{7.72}$$

$$n = 100 \text{ (round off value)}$$

It is assumed that response rate for this study will be 85%; consequently, the study sample size is 150.

**Results/Findings**

The study revealed that there is no significant association between patient age, education level, previous health care experience, availability of health insurance and marital status on patient satisfaction. The current study revealed that 5.3% was satisfied with the nursing care they received while they were admitted in Ward B. Whereas, 6% of participants of the current study showed that they were moderately satisfied. The majority, 88.9% participants were found to be highly satisfied with the nursing care they received.

**Implications**

Numerous recommendations for future research and studies are imminent after conduction of this study. First, it is recommended to conduct an exact replica of this study on larger study populations to increase the generalization of the findings. Furthermore, recommendation to included qualitative design to explore patient satisfaction may yield in answers on factors which reduce patients satisfaction and identify the areas where nurses have to improve the care provided. Also, a qualitative approach may yield more ideas and answers to areas that need to be improved while providing care for patients. Additionally, including different hospitals and larger sample -

size will lead to a more representative view of the patient satisfaction rate. Likewise it is recommended to explore and identify factors associated with dissatisfaction of patient by using information from current study and also with the use of other studies on the subject. Furthermore, the curriculum for nurses can be revised to incorporate topics related to satisfaction of patients such as involving patient and family in decision making related to healthcare situations. Additionally, strategic plans for continuous quality improvements should focus on increasing the satisfaction level of patients.

**Conclusion**

Present research results showed that there is no association between demographic variables such as age, marital status, education level, insurance status and previous health care experience in the Ward B, and level of patient satisfaction. Majority of patients 88.9% expressed that they are highly satisfied with the nursing care they received during the hospital stay in Ward B. However; 1.3% of the study participants are unsatisfied with the nursing care. Additionally, 5.3% patients are satisfied with the care they received from nurses in Ward B. Further research is recommended to explore the factors related to patient satisfaction in much more implicit detail.

## NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH COMMITTEE (NHRC)

The National Health Research Committee (NHRC) was established in 1999. It was established as a strategy outlined in the Health Master Plan 1996-2005 to strengthen the development and implementation of research relating to the health sector, and with the recommendation of WHO to develop and establish ethical and research guidelines. The Health Information and Research Section of Policy Planning and International Health of Ministry of Health is the secretariat of this Committee.

Since the establishment of the NHRC, the government decided that all research related to health be submitted to the NHRC and its approval be sought before implementation. In this regard, the Ministry of Health issued a circular (23-C3/99/C-24) on August 15, 1999 to implement this strategy effective from September 01, 1999. With effect from this date, the NHRC received several research proposals for approval. A guideline was developed to assist researchers such as medical and nursing practitioners, programme managers and students in developing research proposals for submission to the NHRC.

### REPRESENTATIVES IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH COMMITTEE

1. Ministry of Health / Policy Planning and International Health
2. Ministry of Health / Maldives Food and Drug Authority
3. Ministry of Health / Health Protection Agency
4. Ministry of Health / Quality Assurance Division
5. Ministry of Health / Maldives Blood Services
6. National Bureau of Statistics
7. Faculty of Health Sciences
8. Islamic University of Maldives
9. Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital
10. Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services
11. Ministry of Education
12. Ministry of Islamic Affairs
13. Attorney General's Office

### RESEARCH REGISTRATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

#### 1. Application

Submit hard copy and soft copy of research proposal with completed application form and supervisor's endorsement letter to Ministry of Health. (Email: [ppd@health.gov.mv](mailto:ppd@health.gov.mv))

**Application form available at:** <http://www.health.gov.mv>



#### 2. Initial screening

The secretariat will check if the proposal fits the guideline. Researcher will be informed whether the proposal is accepted or not via email.



#### 3. Sharing with members of NHRC

Proposal will be sent to members before the meeting for comments. Any comments received will be compiled for the review meeting.



#### 4. Review meeting

NHRC members will review the proposal and comments will be shared with researcher.



#### 5. Resubmission

Members will review the amended proposal. Researcher will be contacted if further amendments are required. Members may also meet with researcher.



#### 6. Approval

Researcher will receive the approval letter once proposal is amended.

## NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH COMMITTEE APPROVED RESEARCH LIST 2018

- Effectiveness of 2-day course in improving knowledge and skills on evidence-based practice (Researcher: Dr. Fathimath Shifaza)
- Factors influencing continuing professional education of Maldivian registered nurses working in tertiary level hospitals in Maldives (Researcher: Aishath Mala)
- Exploring the factors contributing nurses turnover (Researcher: Hasrath Waheed)
- Genetic responsibility and remoteness (Researcher: Dr. Eva-Maria Knoll)
- Relationship between workaholism, burnout and resilience of critical care nurses in Maldives and Srilanka (Researcher: Aishath Azheena)
- Facilitators and barriers to mentoring nursing students: Mentors' perspectives (Researcher: Yoosuf Rasheed)
- Nurses' perception of nurse-patient communication (Researcher: Sofoora Abdul Latheef)
- Survey on the prevalence of G6PD in the Maldives (Researcher: Dr. Mariyam Suzana)
- A case study of the behavioral risks and risk-reduction factors among Maldivian male youth (Researcher: Mohamed Elmunir Ahmed Safieldin)
- Health related quality of life of persons with disabilities in relation to their employment status in Male' City of the Maldives (Researcher: Aishath Shiyaana)

## HEALTH RESEARCH PRIORITY AREAS (2017-2019)

### Establishment of Burden of Disease

1. Assessment of prevalence of major NCDs – diabetes, cardiovascular diseases including stroke, chronic respiratory Disease and cancers (Breast, oral).
2. Assessment of behaviors, lifestyles and different risk factors especially obesity and their contribution to NCDs
3. Thalassemia and its impact on quality of life
4. Measurement of long-term sequelae and complications of chronic conditions (e.g.; diabetes and hypertension)
5. Measurement of burden of mental health disorders
6. Assessment quality of life in people with chronic conditions including mental health
7. Assessment of abortion situation in the Maldives
8. Prevalence of TB and emerging new incidence of TB

### Assessing Cause and Risk Factors

1. Role of dietary habits in relation to malignancy and other NCDs
2. Health impacts of pesticide overuse in agricultural areas of Maldives
3. Role of Environmental factors in development of cancer in the population
4. Understanding the determinants of physical inactivity among Maldivians and its role in obesity
5. Measurement of food consumption patterns in Maldives
6. Measurement of prevalence of i) smoking and ii) smokeless tobacco users among different age groups
7. Assessment of air quality and its effects on health

### Assessing Effectiveness of Interventions

1. Effectiveness of various interventions addressing NCD's and its risk factors (e.g.: diet and physical activity related interventions such as ban on energy drinks advertisement or setting up of outdoor exercise opportunities and/or centers)
2. Effectiveness of interventions to reduce traffic accidents in urban areas of Maldives
3. Effectiveness of interventions to improve quality of life of people with disabilities
4. Effectiveness of prevention measures of Thalassemia utilized in Maldives
5. Assessment of Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) situation in Maldives
6. Assessment of anti-biotic prescription and consumption patterns
7. Understanding the situation of low fertility levels with low Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR)
8. Effectiveness of community interventions in dengue control

### Clinical Management

1. Identification of key challenges faced in clinical management outcome of Dengue at health care facilities.

### Health System/ Operational Research

1. Identification of challenges faced by service providers in delivering quality health care
2. Review of existing practice of dealing with alleged negligence cases
3. Identification of barriers and supporting/enabling factors in referral of patients between health facilities
4. Identification of supporting/enabling factors and interventions required for joining service and retention of health care professionals (e.g.: doctors, nurses, etc.) in public sectors
5. Assessment of Maldivian health system capacity to address national disasters and emergencies
6. Measurement of quality of care in health sector of Maldives and impact of Quality Improvement Programs
7. Public satisfaction as a measure of health system performance

### Health Care Financing

1. Comprehensive evaluation of Social Health Insurance System including public expectation and satisfaction
2. Identification of mechanisms to ensure financial sustainability of health systems and Social Health Insurance System
3. Identification of appropriate models for Public Private Partnership in health sector of Maldives
4. Involvement of Private Providers and NGOs in health promotion activities

### Health Policy Issues

1. Effectiveness of existing regulatory framework in implementing current policies
2. Assessment of the level of stakeholder involvement in developing public health policies
3. Evaluation of the current public policy development process with an aim to make it more transparent and evidence based

### Social Determinants

1. Measurement of inequities in various key health parameters of Maldives (e.g.: by gender or other special/vulnerable groups)
2. Coverage of the disadvantaged/vulnerable population groups with universal coverage scheme
3. Reasons for Maldivians seeking help from National Social Protection Agency (NSPA) in addition to Aasandha
4. Migrant health issues in the Maldives



Health Information and Research Section  
Policy Planning and International Health (PIH) Division  
Ministry of Health (MoH)  
Republic of Maldives  
Tel: +960 3328887  
Fax: +960 3328889  
Email: [ppd@health.gov.mv](mailto:ppd@health.gov.mv)  
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