

Patients' perspectives on choosing either public or private sector for malaria treatment in Upper Myanmar

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Abstract

In spite of vigorous activities of Vector Borne Disease Control Program making available rapid diagnostic tests and anti-malarial drugs down to community level free-of-charge, a considerable number of patients are purchasing anti-malarial treatments at private sector. Thus, this study identified the determinants of choosing either public or private sector for malaria treatment from the consumer side. A community-based cross sectional, analytical study was conducted at Moegoke, Kyaukse and Myitthar townships of Mandalay Division. A total of 200 uncomplicated malaria patients, 100 each from public and private sector, were interviewed within one-year study period from September 2008 to September 2009. In the final multivariate model, significant factors influencing the choice of public sector included: poor socio-economic status [adjusted odds ratio (AOR)=5.0], residing close to health center (AOR=14.0), treatment cost \leq 1000 kyats (AOR=24.5), sympathy and humanity of provider (AOR=6.2 and 3.9), acceptable waiting time (AOR=3.0), domiciliary treatment service (AOR=20.4) and knowledge on availability of free-of-charge treatment at public sector (AOR=4.1).