

# **Utilization of basic health staff by rural community in disease management of malaria**

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## **Abstract**

This study aimed to assess the utilization of basic health staff (BHS) by rural community in disease management of malaria. A community-based cross-sectional analytic study was conducted from September 2007 to September 2008 at selected malaria endemic areas of five townships in Mandalay Division. A total of randomly selected 1500 heads of household or family members aged over eighteen years and 153 BHS were included in this study. Among 153 malaria cases, 33.3% of patients utilized BHS. Only 18.3% knew the availability of proper anti-malarial treatment with BHS. In multivariate analysis, locally contracted malaria, affordable traveling cost, reasonable treatment cost, domiciliary treatment service, shorter duration of treatment and knowledge on availability of anti-malaria treatment at BFIS are significantly associated with utilization ( $p < 0.05$ ). Parallel to maintenance and strengthening BHS services including domiciliary care, information on availability of anti-malaria treatment with BHS should be given to community.