

Knowledge, attitudes and practices of professional nurses regarding
notification of notifiable infectious diseases at Greater Tzaneen
Municipality of Mopani District in Limpopo Province, South Africa

by

Lowane Mygirl Pearl

Student number: 11627068

This mini-dissertation is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of
the Degree of Master in Public Health
in the school of Health Sciences at the
University of Venda

Supervisor: Dr Mamabolo R.L

Co-supervisor: Dr Mashau N. S

2014

UNIVEN LIBRARY
Library Item : 20150911



ABSTRACT

Under-reporting of notifiable infectious diseases, remains a major problem amongst health care professionals globally. South Africa has a routine notification system of reporting notifiable medical/infectious conditions which is stipulated in the Government Act no 61 of 2003 and regulations regarding the reporting of specific diseases to the local, provincial and national health departments. However, under-reporting of notifiable diseases remains high in the country.

This study assessed the knowledge, attitudes and practices of professional nurses regarding notification of infectious diseases. A quantitative, cross sectional, descriptive was used to assess the knowledge of professional nurses regarding infectious diseases notification at greater Tzaneen municipality of Mopani district in Limpopo province. Self-administrated questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents in all clinics and Health Centres, where a total of 145 professional nurses agreed to participate in the study representing a response rate of 70%.

The study revealed that professional nurses lack knowledge regarding notification of notifiable medical conditions. The study also revealed that majority of professional nurses had positive attitude towards notification of notifiable medical conditions but reporting of infectious medical condition remained low. This study also revealed challenges with regard to notification practices. The study, therefore, recommend that the employer provide professional nurses with training and health care employers should actively promote the importance of notifiable infectious diseases reporting to their clinicians.

Key concepts: Professional nurses, disease notification; infectious diseases; notifiable disease surveillance systems, notifiable diseases and diseases surveillance.