

Towards the Dental Healthcare Safety Policy Framework in the AFP Health Service Command

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Abstract

An infectious disease caused by the SARS-COV-2 virus known as the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is regarded as a global health emergency of international concern in 2020 which posed serious challenges and illness for medical health services. Like most allied medical fields, dental services were limited to providing treatment to urgent and extreme emergency cases only with strict adherence to the Department of Health (DOH) guidelines. In the development of this paper, the researcher would like to propose a Dental Health Care Safety Policy Framework for the AFP Health Service Command. Dental Healthcare Professionals must be aware of the hazards of infection from acquiring the infectious disease in the clinic because the main goal of every Dental Health Care Professional (DHCP) is to raise oral healthcare awareness of Covid-19 and their readiness to help control transmission and to highlight how dentistry can move forward after the pandemic. This study adopted a mixed-method research design that capitalizes on the potential capabilities of both Qualitative and Quantitative approaches to investigate modern healthcare trends and practices to ensure quality and safety practices for patients. This paper will provide a framework for the application of specific guidelines and offer a chance to initiate reforms or push reforms on patient and dental healthcare professionals' safety in the AFP Dental Service (AFPDS) in the advent of another outbreak of infectious diseases. This would highlight the role, function, and application of safe clinical procedures in keeping a dentally fit AFP personnel.

Keywords: dental healthcare professionals (DHCP), AFP dental service (AFPDS), infection control, policy framework, global health emergency, dental safe practices Philippines