

**OUT-OF-POCKET HEALTH EXPENDITURE
OF OPERATED SURGICAL CASES IN
NORTH OKKALAPA GENERAL AND
TEACHING HOSPITAL (2019)**

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M.B., B.S

Master of Hospital Administration (MHA)

University of Public Health, Yangon

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**Thesis submitted to
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ABSTRACT

Out-of-pocket (OOP) health expenditure is defined as direct expenditure by individual patient to health care providers for getting health care services. OOP expenditure acts as a deterrent for utilization of the health care services for a considerable proportion of the population. This survey was conducted in 103 surgical patients attending the three surgical units of North Okkalapa General and Teaching Hospital (NOGTH) by using pre-tested questionnaires with face-to-face interview method. The objectives of this study are to determine OOP expenditure on direct payments for medicines (or) drugs, laboratory investigations and imaging investigations done by surgical patients and to evaluate non-medical health care expenditure in operated surgical cases in NOGTH. This study showed the variation in health care cost depending on types of surgical procedures and use of anesthesia. The unit cost incurred by surgical patients for medicines was 24,834 MMK, for esophagogastroduodenoscopy (OGD scopy) was 20,000 MMK and for blood transfusion was no charge. The unit cost for operation was 15,219 MMK. Laboratory investigations cost 26,843 MMK and imaging investigations cost 2,810 MMK respectively. The maximum unit cost of OOP expenditure was for laboratory investigations as direct health care cost, and the second was the cost for drugs and medicines. So the major concern of OOP expenditure of operated surgical cases was represented by the cost for laboratory investigations and medicines. Major surgery consumes most with the use of general anesthesia. Among non-medical health expenditure, loss of income by the attendants was the main contribution to high OOP expenditure. Transportation costs can also be one of the barriers to access to health care. Finally, OOP health expenditure in operated surgical cases mainly depends on type of operation, the cost for laboratory investigations and number of attendants. Especially, the more increase in the number of attendants, the higher OOP expenditure. Therefore, this study can provide the basic information of health care expenditure and help the policy makers to allocate of healthcare budget effectively and efficiently among the hospitals. This study highlights the requirement of appropriate health financing system to develop and to reduce financial hardship of patients for achievement of universal health coverage.