

Abstract:

Khayelitsha District Hospital (KDH) is a district level tertiary hospital that opened in February 2012. The hospital serves the partially informal township of Khayelitsha which means *our new home* in the Xhosa language. The 47-bed Emergency Department (ED) in the hospital serves more than 120 patients daily, with the pediatric patient population making up a significant percentage of the total number of patients seen in the ED. This study was conducted retrospectively to determine whether there is an association that exists between pediatric patients diagnosed with acute gastroenteritis (AGE), pneumonia and neonatal sepsis, and the following variables: sex, nature of referral, prematurity, and duration of time spent in the ED. A database which was collected over a span of six months from 1 November 2014 through 30 April 2015 and contained data for 325 pediatric patients seen in the Resuscitation Zone of KDH was analyzed to determine the associations noted above. The understanding of these associations will help to streamline protocols, make efficient use of limited resources, and implement system level changes at KDH to provide a higher standard of care for pediatric patients seen in the ED. The goal of this study is to shed light on opportunities available to minimize the morbidity and mortality of a vulnerable population.