Non conforming episodes in medical laboratory can be expected. These episodes usually affect the laboratory quality and management. The main types of non-conforming episodes for medical laboratory include complain of service, aberration in laboratory cycle and accident. The accidents in laboratory are any unwanted and unexpected event that occurs within the laboratory. Examples of accidents include falling, firing, chemical spillage and flooding. In this article, the author reports an episode of flooding in a medical laboratory. Also, further discussions on its effect as well as preventive – corrective actions one made.

In a Monday morning, the worker in charge of the laboratory detected the water flow through the door of the official service-medical laboratory. He opened the door and found that the ground within the laboratory soaked with a considerable amount of water. Examination for the cause of the flood started from survey of the water tap in toilets and sinks then to the pipeline system of all machines in the laboratory. The rooted cause finding showed a leakage of the pipeline system of water filter machine. He notified the mechanic of the hospital to repair it and the water on the ground was mopped. The flood was believed to occur on Saturday or Sunday, 1 or 2 days before.

Flooding in medical laboratory is a totally unwanted accident. In this are flooding result from the pipeline within the laboratory and controllable. However, the natural flooding due to heavy raining which is common in Thailand should also be concerned. The effects of flooding on laboratory are various. The degree of flooding can be either minor or major flooding. For minor flooding, leakage from the running water pipeline is a common cause. For major flooding, natural flood is a common cause. If a minor flooding, like in this case, occurs, the problem of increased moisture after mopping can be expected and can result in errors of laboratory analyzers. For major flooding such as a natural disaster, a considerable damage of the machines and building can be expected. Also the hazard of electricity leakage during flooding should be warned.

For preventive action, the first design of laboratory should be placed in the high floor. Also a regular maintenance checking of the water pipeline within the laboratory is required. For corrective action, prompt mopping to control the main flooding is recommended. For a major flooding moving of the machine corresponding to the disaster moving plan must be performed. With the recent natural hazard of flooding and medical laboratory should set the plan.
to respond to the possible disaster due to flooding. In this case, the old pipeline system is the main cause of the flood. The author hereby recommends for maintenance and surveillance checking for the pipeline system for all laboratories. In conclusion, the author hereby reports and discusses a case of flooding in medical laboratory. The plan to respond the possible episode is encouraged.

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