

Knowledge and Reported Practices Regarding Infection Control Measures among Nursing Staffs Posted at a Government Hospital in Chennai

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Abstract: ***Objectives:** To assess the knowledge and reported practices regarding infection control measures among nursing staffs posted at a government hospital. **Materials and methods:** A descriptive study was conducted to assess the knowledge and reported practices among nursing staffs. 50 nursing staffs were recruited in to the study who were posted to various wards and departments of the hospital by non - probability purposive sampling. Data analysis was done using descriptive statistics. **Results:** The present study results revealed that maximum i. e., 30 (60%) of samples had excellent knowledge, 10 (20%) had good knowledge, 8 (16%) had average knowledge and only 02 (4%) had poor knowledge regarding infection control measures. However, when evaluated the reported practices it was seen that only 23 (46 %) respondents had excellent practice, 22 (44%) had good practice, 5 (10%) had average practices and no one had poor practice regarding infection control measures. **Conclusion:** Results from this study justifies the fact that though excellent knowledge is exhibited by nursing staff regarding infection control measures emphasises should be given to practicing the measures on a routine basis and in - service education on this subject should be adopted for the nursing staffs.*

Keywords: Knowledge, Reported practices, infection control measures

1. Introduction

Healthcare - associated infection (HCAI) is one of the most common complications of health care management. It is a serious health hazard as it leads to increased patients' morbidity and mortality, length of hospital stay and the costs associated with hospital stay¹. Effective infection prevention and control is central to providing high quality health care for patients and a safe working environment for those that work in healthcare settings. It is important to minimize the risk of spread of infection to patients and staff in hospital by implementing good infection control programme².

Prevention of HCAI in patients is a concern of everyone in the facility and is the responsibility of all individuals and services providing health care. Risk prevention for patients and staff must be supported at the level of senior administration. Nurses have the unique opportunity to reduce the potential for HAIs in their health care facility. It is important that by utilizing the skills and knowledge acquired through nursing practice, they can facilitate patient recovery while minimizing complications related to infections². Nursing staffs have many tools available to create a safe environment for patients that among others, there are five main areas of nursing practice where they can help and monitor control and prevention of HAIs which are as follows: promotion of hand hygiene, make best use of aseptic techniques, universal precautionary practices, patient's education and cleaning and disinfection practices³. Therefore, nursing play important role in preventing hospital - acquired infections, not only by ensuring that all aspects of their nursing practice are properly conducted, but also through nursing research, patient education and implementation of infection control practices.

2. Review of Literature

- Hema Gogia et al in their study conducted at two Intensive care units of tertiary setup hospital, Delhi on the awareness and practice of infection control among the doctors and nurses. The study found various factors which are responsible for the poor infection control practices in hospital setup despite high awareness among doctors and nurses.
- The results of a study done by Kanwalpreet Sodhi et al in 2013 on Knowledge of infection control practices among intensive care nurses in a tertiary setup hospital revealed that there was good knowledge among nurses and there is an opportunity for improvement with regular educational programs and in - house training.

3. Materials & Methods

A cross sectional descriptive survey was conducted among 50 nursing staffs working at a government hospital in Chennai. Samples were recruited using purposive technique. A self - administered questionnaire was prepared which consists of two sections to assess demographic profile, knowledge regarding infection control measures whereas a checklist was prepared for data collection of reported practices. Data analysis was done by descriptive statistics

4. Results

- 30 (60%) of the samples were between the age group of 25 - 45 years whereas 20 (40%) belong to age group above 45 years
- 28 (56%) of the samples were male whereas 22 (44%) of the samples were females
- 25 (50%) belong to nuclear family, 21 (42%) were from joint family & 4 (8%) belonged to mixed family

- 45 (90%) of the samples were married, 03 (6%) were unmarried and 02 (4%) were widow.
- 50 (100%) of the samples had undergone formal training in infection control practices
- 60 % of samples had excellent knowledge whereas 20%, 16% & 4% revealed good, average & poor knowledge regarding infection control practices
- 72% of samples possessed good knowledge regarding personal protective equipments
- 65% were able to demonstrate biomedical waste management practices whereas 42% of the samples were aware of standard precautions.
- 46 % of samples followed excellent practices whereas 44% & 5% revealed good & average practices regarding infection control measures.
- 72 % of samples reported good practices regarding disinfection of equipments
- 45 % revealed average practices regarding spill management
- 82% of the samples practiced effective handwashing techniques
- Significant relationship was established between educational qualifications of the samples and knowledge regarding infection control measures
- Significant relationship between knowledge and reported practices of infection control measures was revealed by this study.

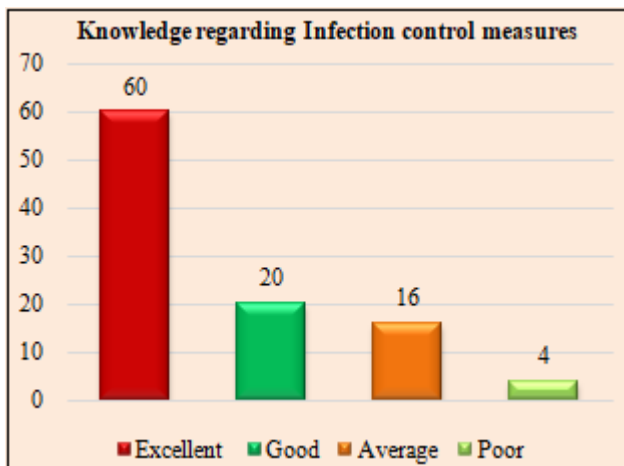


Figure 1: Distribution of samples as per their knowledge regarding infection control measures among nursing staffs, n=50

Figure 1: reveals that majority of the samples i. e., 30 (60%) of nursing staffs possess excellent knowledge regarding infection control measures while 02 (4%) had poor knowledge

Figure 2: Distribution of samples as per their Reported Practices, n=50



Figure 2: shows that only 23 (46%) respondents had excellent practice whereas 5 (10%) had average reported practices regarding infection control measures.

References

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