

# Awareness, Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Blood and Body Fluid Precautions among health care workers in a tertiary hospital

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## Background

Universal precautions are not well understood or implemented by health care practitioners, though crucial in the prevention and transmission of blood-borne pathogens like HIV.

## Objective

To assess knowledge, awareness and compliance of universal precautions among health care workers .

Study design: Cross-sectional Study

Time period: July 2011

## Method

A 25 item self-administered questionnaire was provided to 500 health care workers including medical and nursing students, medical doctors, nurses and porters.

## Results

Of the 500 selected health care workers , 82 % completed the questionnaire. Almost two third all the respondents , though claim to be

knowledgeable about universal precautions , were not aware that recapping , disassembly and inappropriate disposal increases the risk of needle stick injury. Level of awareness was significantly high in those who were employed in the health sector for more than 10 years. Lack of personal protective equipment was the main reason for not following universal precautions . There was a significant statistical relationship between awareness of universal precautions and level of education. More porters , than any other health care workers, reported inadequate knowledge and compliance of use of protective gear.

## Conclusions

Training and education have been found to be of paramount importance for developing awareness and improving adherence to good clinical practice. Non compliance is associated with insufficient resources , workload , forgetfulness and time constraints.

Availability of supplies and regular awareness programs for these standard precautions are the main suggestions for better compliance.