

CHAPTER: 06

AWARENESS & COMPLIANCE OF IP PRACTICES AMONGST HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS OF PRIVATE SHCOS IN KOTA

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INTRODUCTION

In healthcare systems, the utmost priority lies in infection prevention and control (IPC), crucial for safeguarding the well-being of our healthcare professionals against exposure to diseases. Mitigating the risk of infections not only reduces the associated costs but also improves the overall quality of the healthcare system, contributing to overall health improvement. Ensuring protection against preventable infections is paramount, and healthcare workers are actively engaged in enhancing practices and behaviors within the healthcare system to achieve this goal.

Within the health system, contamination and infection significantly contribute to morbidity and mortality. Healthcare workers face an increased risk of needle stick injuries, exposing them directly to potential infection. Knowledge regarding standard precautions was nearly universal at almost 100%, the observed compliance rate was slightly lower at 89%. Interestingly, the study found that compliance with standard precautions was higher among medical undergraduates compared to residents. Additionally, the study identified a negative correlation between compliance with standard precautions and the length of professional experience, suggesting that more experienced individuals exhibited lower adherence. Upon exploring the reasons for the lack of compliance, the survey revealed that time constraints (64%), burden (54%), and the assumption that the patient isn't infected (34%) were among the primary factors cited [1]. The majority demonstrated a correct understanding by providing accurate answers to at least 10 out of 13 knowledge-based questions. Notably, 47% identified a lack of knowledge as a significant reason for non-compliance with guidelines, while 42% cited a shortage of time, and 39% mentioned neglect. For doctors and senior-level healthcare providers, the factors most significantly influencing non-compliance were lack of time and lack of communication [2]. Trained nurses exhibited the highest compliance with not recapping used needles, while doctors demonstrated the lowest compliance. A minority of respondents, accounting for less than one-fourth (56.5%), reported never wearing goggles during deliveries and

surgeries. The institution studied consistently maintained a high level of provision for sharps containers and screening of transfused blood [3].

RATIONALE

The hospital was undergoing pre-entry level accreditation from NABH, prompting the design of this study to assess the adherence to standard precautions and recognize the behavioral factors influencing both safe and unsafe practices. The anticipated study aimed to make a substantial contribution by identifying and enhancing the implementation of standard precautions not only within the study area health facility but also in broader contexts.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

1. To examine their adherence to standard precautions.
2. To identify particular areas that may require additional focus in the ongoing education of healthcare workers.
3. To examine various types of infection prevention practices within a private, small healthcare organization.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology employed for this study was a descriptive, cross-sectional approach conducted over a span of three months. The type of data collected was quantitative in nature, and the data collection procedure involved the administration of a structured, self-administered questionnaire. The study focused on Station House Officers (SHOs) in Kota as the sample area, utilizing convenience sampling to select a sample size of 50 participants. Data entry was performed manually, and the subsequent analysis employed tools such as bar charts and pie charts in Microsoft Excel and Google Forms. This research methodology aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the perspectives and insights of SHOs in Kota, using a quantitative framework to analyse and interpret the collected data effectively.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

It was found that 90% of HCWs were aware of the risk of infection due to COVID-19. Additionally, 99% acknowledged that everyone was responsible for fighting against COVID-19. Most HCWs were aware of infection prevention and control measures, around 70% of respondents indicated that the most effective measures for preventing COVID-19 are practicing social distancing and staying at home. About 85% of individuals were knowledgeable about the modes of COVID-19 transmission, which include touching, sneezing, and coughing. The majority of HCWs believed in the necessity of an infection control committee and adhering to guidelines. However, around 10% were not aware of standard precautions, and 8% were not familiar with handling blood-contaminated clothes. There were concerns about handling solid body secretions, with 22% lacking awareness of standard procedures. Furthermore, there was good awareness about the disposal of needles, but a small percentage demonstrated a lack of knowledge about needlestick injuries and biomedical waste disposal.

CONCLUSION

Healthcare workers faced an elevated risk of experiencing Needle Stick Injuries while serving in healthcare facilities. Their exposure to COVID-19 patients poses a potential threat, and due to a lack of awareness, they may be susceptible to contracting and transmitting diseases. There were current opportunities to implement healthcare programs for healthcare workers, focusing on infection control and prevention, which directly impact patient safety and the overall quality of the healthcare system, all in a cost-effective manner. The study indicated a deficiency in awareness and knowledge regarding infection safety measures. Additionally, hospitals were not adequately upgrading their technology and procedures, hindering improvements in both the health of healthcare workers and the care provided to patients.

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