

## Infection Prevention 2020: Knowledge and practice of standard precautions among primary health care workers in Yenagoa, Nigeria - Dotimi Doris Atibinye - Bayelsa Medical University

**Dotimi Doris Atibinye**

Bayelsa Medical University, Nigeria

**Keywords:** Standard precaution, needle prick injuries, blood borne pathogens, Primary Health Care

**Background:** Health care workers (HCWs) are at a high risk of needle stick injuries and blood-borne pathogens as they perform their clinical activities in the health facilities. The aim of the study was to assess the level of knowledge and practice of standard precaution measures in the delivery of health care services among health care workers in Yenagoa Local Government Area.

**Method:** The study was a descriptive cross sectional design. Multistage sampling techniques were used to recruit a total of 78 consenting health care providers working in Primary Health Care Centers in Yenagoa Local Government Area for the study. A validated structured questionnaire on knowledge and practice of standard precautions was used for data collection; qualitative method of data collection was also employed for triangulation. Data were analyzed using simple SPSS version 20.0

**Result:** Findings in the study showed that mean age of participants was 27.1 years made up of Public Health Nurses 3 (3.8%), JCHEWs 10(12.8), CHEWs 20(25.6%), CHOs 30(38.5%), Nurse/Midwives 10(12.8%), doctors 5(6.4%). A total of 75(96%) participants had fair knowledge of standard precautions in the delivery of Health Care services, but only 50 (64%) of participants had good adherence to standard precautions during service delivery due to lack of standard precaution equipment in the facility. These practices are designed to protect both the HCWs and the patients from nosocomial infections. Thus, SPs are crucial in hospital infection control as well as in issues related to biosafety and security of patients, professionals, and students in direct or indirect health-care delivery. Thus, the entire staff in these selected departments was enrolled into the study. Pretested self-administered questionnaires were used to collect data from respondents. Pretesting was done among 20 HCWs. It was observed that most facilities staff makes use of improvise instead of the standard precaution equipment.

**Conclusion:** The implication for social change includes the provision of Standard precaution equipment and intensive education of Health workers on the importance of adherence to standard precautions in the Primary Health Care Facilities for better infection control. It is generally known that health-care workers (HCWs) often come in contact with blood-borne pathogens and other microorganisms. Spread of nosocomial

infections, the United States' centers for disease control (CDC) in 1985 introduced Universal precautions to protect HCWs from contact with blood and a number of other body fluids visibly contaminated with blood. These exposures commonly occur during major or minor surgical procedures, during routine clinical and nursing services like simple physical examination, while handling laboratory specimen, and during disposal of hospital wastes as well as during accident and life-saving emergency procedures. These practices are designed to protect both the HCWs and the patients from nosocomial infections. Thus, SPs are crucial in hospital infection control First stage was selection of departments and units which was done by simple random sampling.

Then, for those departments that are more than one in number like the wards, theater and outpatient departments, half of them were selected by simple random sampling. Non convenience of materials, limited organizational support, and lack of knowledge regarding infection control practices among HCWs were some of the factors responsible for poor compliance to SP. The next stage was selection of the respondents which was done by cluster sampling as well as in issues related to biosafety and security of patients, professionals, and students in direct or indirect health-care delivery. However, research around stigma and discrimination in health-related Data were entered and analyzed in Epic-Info version 7 by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia. Discrete variables were presented as frequencies. The mean and standard error of the mean were calculate for the age and years of service settings implicated Universal precautions as a means by which HCWs discriminate against patients because by failing to mainstream Universal precautions in practice, health professionals are making judgment based on individual's health status the entire staffs in these selected departments were enrolled into the study.

Pretested self-administered questionnaires were used to collect data from respondents. Pretesting was done among 20 HCWs. In addition, establishment SP' training for HCWs is variously commended as a major means of stimulating adherence to SP and protecting HCWs and patients from nosocomial infections. Regular follow-up after implicated therapy, and therapeutic-discontinuation may be required for successful outcomes.