

Nurses' Knowledge, Attitude, Practice, and Perceived Barriers of Infection Control Measures in the Intensive Care Units at Northwest Bank Hospitals

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The foremost challenge encountered by patients in intensive care units is nosocomial infections impacting their prognosis. Nurses play a vital role in infection control, necessitating adequate knowledge and adherence to protocols. Therefore, the study aims to assess nurses' knowledge, attitude, practice, and perceived barriers of infection control measures in the Intensive care units at the Northwest Bank Hospitals. The study employed a quantitative cross-sectional and observational design, utilizing a self-administration questionnaire and checklist distributed among 115 ICU nurse working in governmental hospitals in the Northwest Bank. The study revealed that the majority of nurses demonstrated a moderate to low knowledge level. However, 63.5% exhibited a positive attitude toward infection control measures, and 72.9% demonstrated good practice levels. Among the sociodemographic determinants, gender was the only significant factor in relation to practice, where male nurses demonstrated better practices than female nurses ($P < .05$). Nursing staff identified several barriers to achieving infection standards, including lack of equipment, inadequate training courses on infection control, challenges posed by visitors, absence of infection control policies and standards, insufficient isolation rooms, and heavy workload. The majority of nurses displayed good practice levels and positive attitudes toward infection prevention. Additionally, male nurses practiced infection control measures significantly more effectively than female nurses. The major barriers were lack of equipment, lack of training courses, and challenges related to visitors. Addressing these barriers is essential to improving infection control measures in critical care units. **Key words:** *attitude, barriers, infection control, intensive care units, knowledge, practice*

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The authors would like to express they're thanks to the nursing students who participated in the study.

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Researchers declare no conflict of interest with any organization regarding the materials discussed in this paper.

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DOI: 10.1097/CNQ.0000000000000538

WHAT DO WE ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THIS TOPIC?

Nurses play a crucial role in maintaining patient care standards and preventing the spread of infection.

HOW DOES YOUR RESEARCH CONTRIBUTE TO THE FIELD?

By providing crucial insights into improving infection management and prevention