

# **Knowledge, Practice and Attitudes of Nurses Towards Infection Control (IC) Standards in West Bank Governmental Hospitals**

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# Introduction:

- IC standards is a key component of nursing practice to reduce the rate of hospital-acquired infections.
- The important component of infection prevention and control (IPC) are two levels; universal precaution and transmission-based isolation precaution.

## Introduction.....Continue

- The knowledge, understanding and practice are vital in maintaining high standards of IPC.
- Low compliance with these standards has been reported in many developing countries.
- The knowledge and compliance with IPC practice in Palestine has not been assessed before.



# Aims and Objectives:

This study aims to explore the knowledge and compliance of nurses working in West Bank governmental hospitals with IC standards, in an attempt to guide future strategies to enhance these standards in Palestine.





# Study Design:

- A multi-center, cross-section, descriptive study was undertaken a self-administered questionnaire.
- The questionnaire had three categories of questions:
  1. Demographic and occupational characteristics related to infection control.
  2. Knowledge about standard precautions for precaution: had three possible answers ("yes", "no", "I do not know").
  3. Practice of standard precautions: ("always", "often", "sometimes", "seldom", and "never").



# Demographic and Occupational Characteristics:

Questionnaire #: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Infection Control Perception Questionnaire

Dear Colleague,

IMET2000-Pal is carrying out a survey among Palestinian health workers. The survey aims at assessing the health workers' knowledge, attitudes and practice regarding infection control and standard precautions in Palestine, mainly in the fields of medicine & nursing. Kindly fill the following questionnaire on your own. The information obtained from this questionnaire is dealt with confidentiality and will only be used for research purposes.

Thank you

IMET2000-Pal Health Education Team

### **Part I: Personal Information**

1. Gender:  Male  Female
2. Age (years):  20-30  31-40  41-50  >51
3. Profession:  Doctor  Nurse
4. Your highest academic/clinical training level:  
 Diploma  Bachelor  Postgraduate Diploma  
 Masters Degree  PhD
5. If you are a doctor, please specify your highest clinical training level:  
 Internship  Resident  Specialist
6. Work experience (Years):  0 - 1  2 - 4  5 - 10  > 10
7. Work Place:  Jenin  Qalqelia  Tulkerm  Nablus  
 Ramallah  Betlehem  Hebron  Jericho
8. Ward :  Medical  Surgical  Pediatric  Obs. And Gyne.  
 Emergency  Orthopedics  ICU  Operations  
 Others (please specify):.....
9. Have you received infection control training inside the hospital (since started practicing)  
 Yes  No  Not sure
10. Have you received infection control training outside the hospital (since started practicing)  
 Yes  No  Not sure
11. Is there an infection control nurse in the hospital where you work?  
 Yes  No  Not sure

12. Have you received hepatitis B virus vaccine since you started your job?

- Yes  No  Not sure

13. Do you know of the presence of any infection control manual in your department/hospital?

- Yes  No  Not sure

14. Do you know of the presence of any infection control committee in your department/hospital?

- Yes  No  Not sure

15. Training in infection control is

- Very much needed  Needed  Neutral  Not Needed

# Knowledge:

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#	Question	Yes	No	I do not know
16	Hands should be washed before and after patient care			
17	Hands should be washed before and after using gloves.			
18	Hands should be washed after accidental contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, or contaminated items			
19	Gloves should be worn when touching mucous membranes or non-intact skin			
20	Goggles should be worn (even by those who wear eye glasses) to protect mucous membranes of the eyes for procedures and activities likely to generate splashes and sprays of blood or body fluids			
21	Washing hands with betadine is not necessarily after exposure to patient's blood, body fluids, secretions or contaminated items			
22	A Surgical mask should be worn to protect the nose and mouth when procedures and activities are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood or body fluids.			
23	Needles should not be bent before disposal			
24	When there is a risk of being contaminated with a patient's blood or body fluids, a gown should be worn			

**Tell us about your practice; please be as specific and as accurate as possible**

# Practice:

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		Always	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
25	I wash my hands before and after patient care					
26	I wash my hands before and after using gloves.					
27	I wash my hands after accidental contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, or contaminated items					
28	I wear my gloves when I touch mucous membranes or non-intact skin					
29	I wear my Goggles (even when I wear my eye glasses) for procedures and activities likely to generate splashes and sprays of blood or body fluids					
30	I wash my hands with betadine after exposure to patient's blood, body fluids, secretions or contaminated items					
31	I wear my surgical mask when I perform procedures and activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood or body fluids.					
32	I do not bend the needles before disposal					
33	I wear my gown when there is a risk of being contaminated with a patient's blood or body fluids					

**SAMPLE**

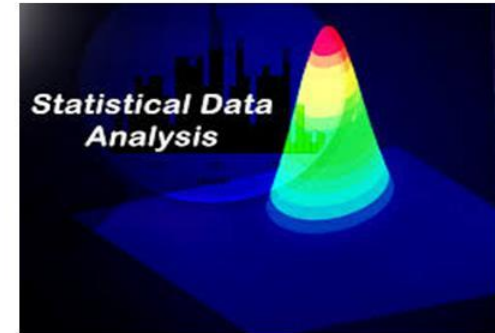
# Sample:

- The study was carried out at the eight governmental hospitals of the Palestinian nurses.
- The nurses were selected from each hospital using random sampling.
- The hospitals where the study was conducted offer the following services:
  - Internal medicine.
  - Emergency and intensive care.
  - Surgery.
  - Pediatrics.
  - Operation.
  - Gynecology.
- Respondents who replied from October 1 to November 30, 2013 included 275 of nurses.



# Statistical Analysis:

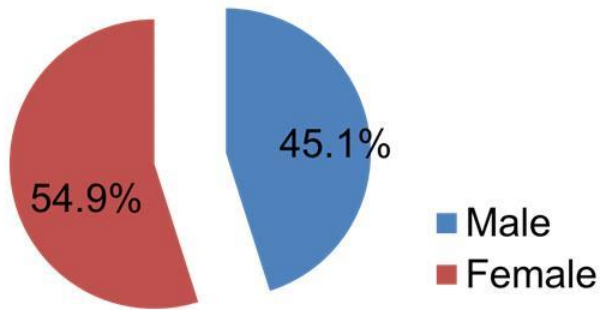
- Frequency and mean.
- Standard deviation.
- SPSS.



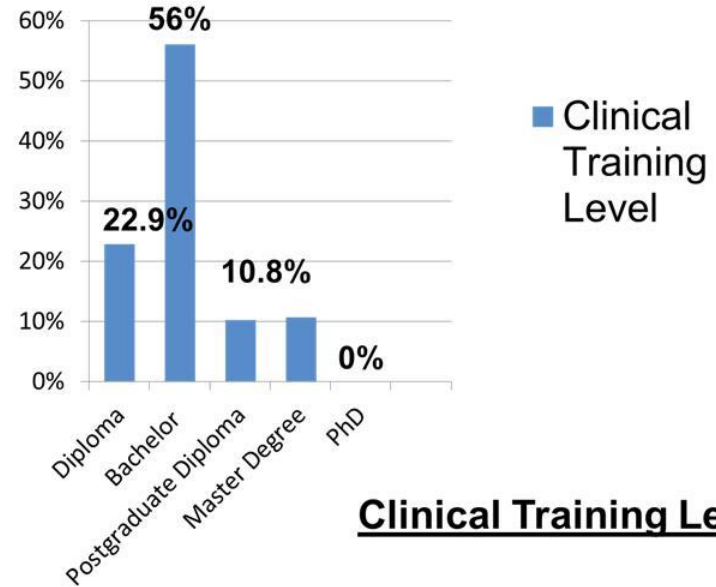
# Results:



## I. Participants' Demographics:

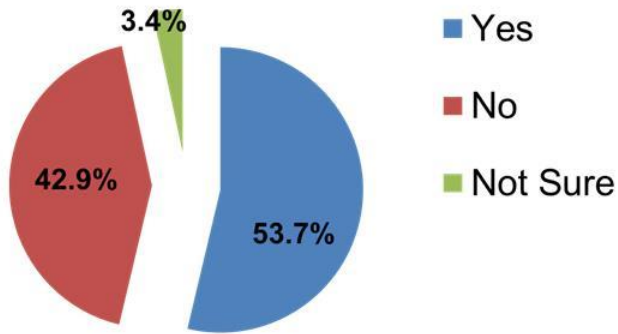


Gender Distribution

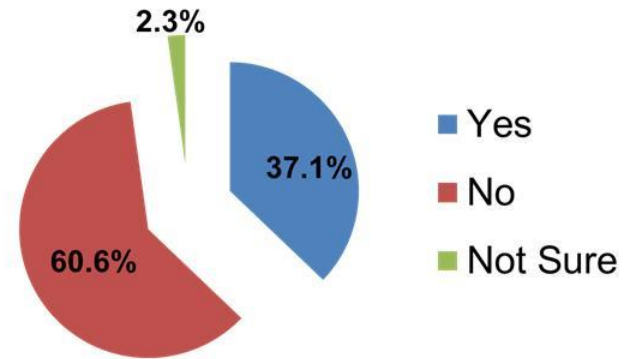


Clinical Training Level

## II. Training in Infection Control



Received Infection Control  
Training Inside Hospital



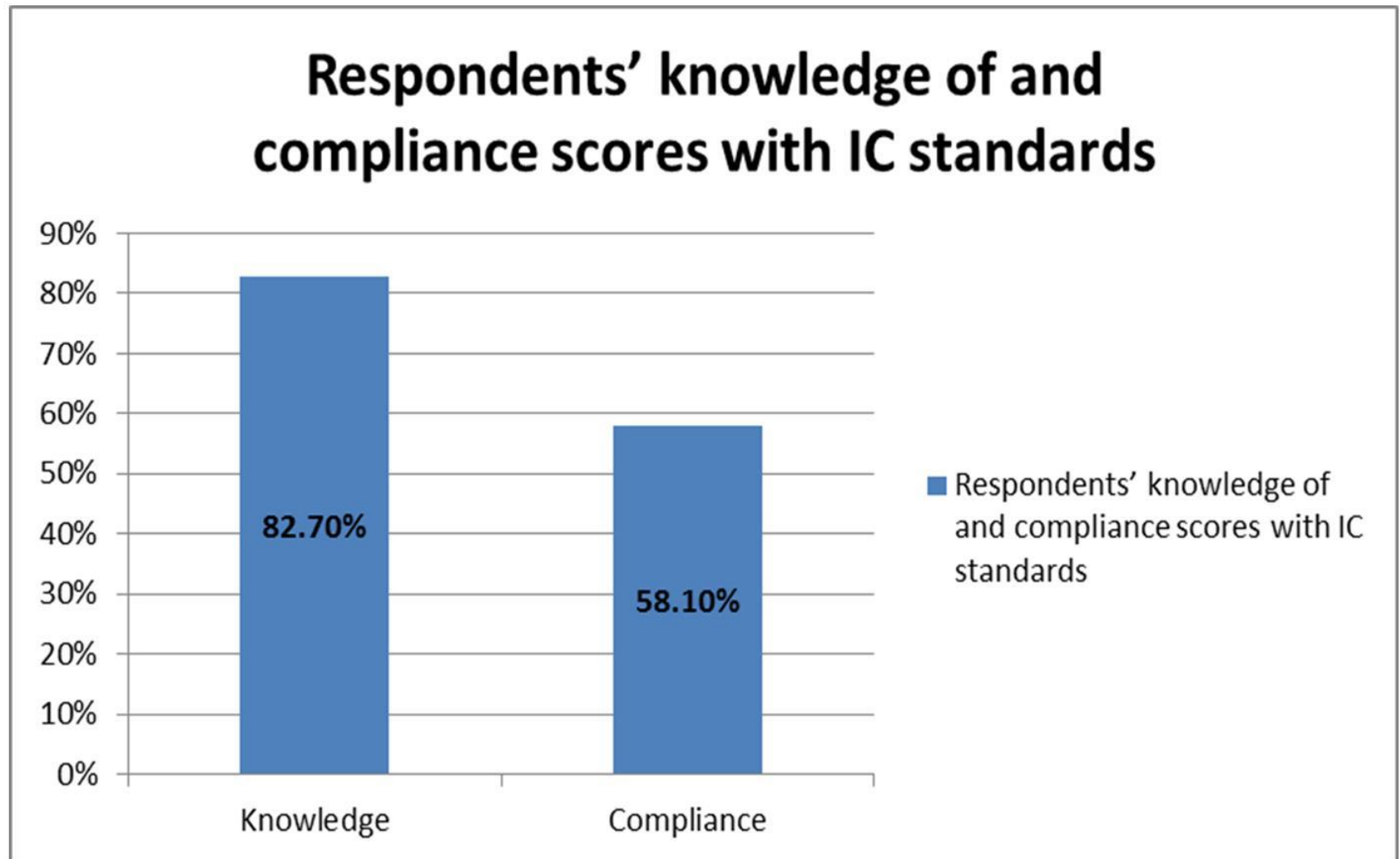
Received Infection Control  
Training Outside Hospital

## Results.....Continue

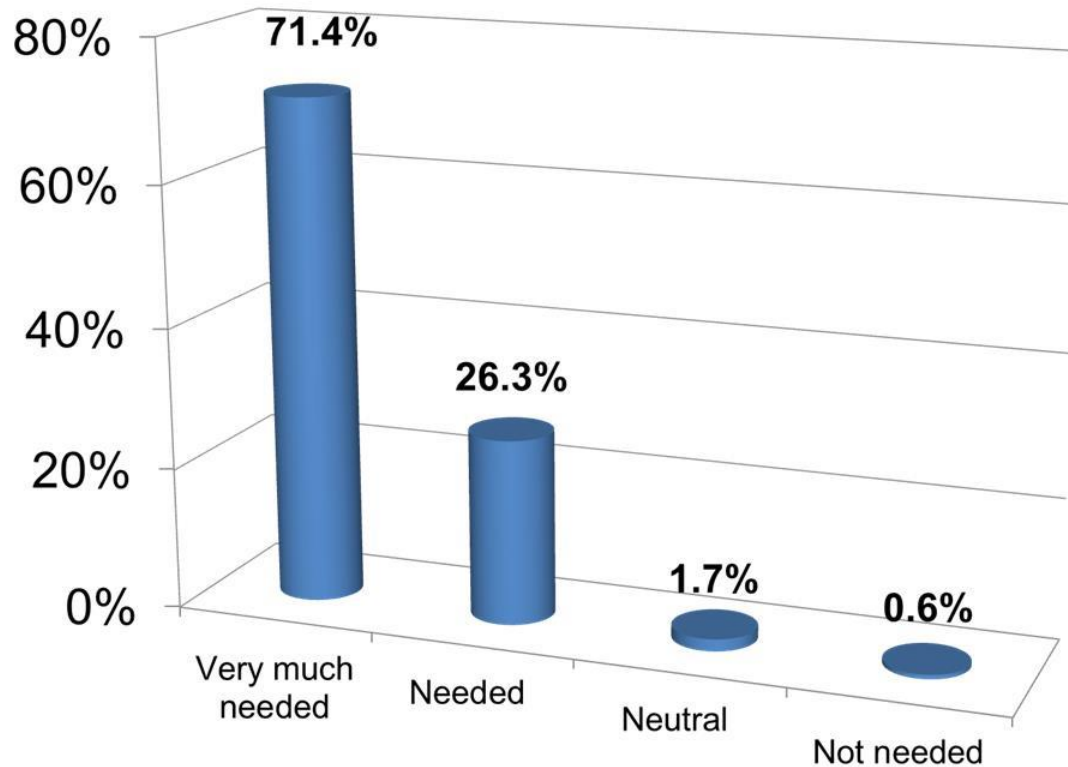
# III. Participants Knowledge of and Compliance with IC Standards

No	Questions	Knowledge		Practice	
		No. of correct answers	Percentage of correct answers	No. of correct answers	Percentage of correct answers
1.	Hands should be washed before and after patient care	175	<b>100%</b>	136	77.7%
2.	Hands should be washed before and after using gloves	147	84%	86	49.1%
3.	Hands should be washed after accidental contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, or contaminated items	174	99.4%	158	<b>90.3%</b>
4.	Gloves should be worn when touching mucous membranes or non-intact skin	167	95.4%	141	80.6%
5.	Goggles should be worn (even by those who wear eye glasses) to protect mucous membranes of the eyes for procedures and activities likely to generate splashes and sprays of blood or body fluids	116	66.3%	44	<b>25.1%</b>
6.	Washing hands with betadine is not necessarily after exposure to patient's blood, body fluids, secretions or contaminated items	84	<b>48%</b>	57	32.6%
7.	A Surgical mask should be worn to protect the nose and mouth when procedures and activities are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood or body fluids	144	82.3%	80	45.7%
8.	Needles should not be bent before disposal	135	77.1%	108	61.7%
9.	When there is a risk of being contaminated with a patient's blood or body fluids, a gown should be worn	164	93.7%	107	61.1%

## Results.....Participants Knowledge of and Compliance with IC Standards...Continue



## IV. Needs for Infection Control Training



**Need for Infection Control Training**

## Limitation:

- ➔ lack of research in Palestine related to IPC.
- ➔ Our results are based on subjective view of nurses themselves.
- ➔ As a result, we have to assume that the level of knowledge and practice is even lower than reported.



## Conclusions:



1. Education and training of healthcare personnel on IC standards are needed for ensuring that policies and procedures are understood and practiced.
2. This study provides information about nursing IC practices in West Bank governmental hospitals.
3. Results from this study are expected to guide efforts to develop educational programs to improve nursing IC practices in Palestine.

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END

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