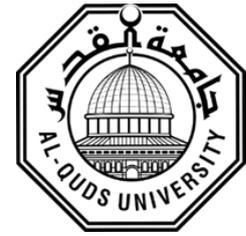


**Deanship of Graduate Studies
Al –Quds University**



**Health Care Providers' Compliance with the Infection
Control Practices in Hemodialysis Units – Gaza
Governorates**

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MPH Thesis

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**Health Care Providers' Compliance with the Infection
Control Practices in Hemodialysis Units – Gaza
Governorates**

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Dedication

*To my mother and father to whom I owe my life and success
To my dear wife who has been a great source of motivation and
inspiration.*

To my daughters and son for their encouraging smiles

To my brothers and sisters

To my friends

To my colleagues

And

To everyone who contributed to make this study a reality

Raid Naser Khaled Kashkash

Declaration

I certify that this thesis submitted for the degree of master is the result of my own research, except where otherwise acknowledged, and that this thesis or any of its parts has not been submitted for higher degree to any other university or institution.

Signed:

Date: /05/2017

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Raid Naser Khaled Kashkash

Abstract

Health care Associated Infections are the most frequent adverse event in health care delivery, which lead to significant mortality and financial loss for health systems. The overall aim of the study was to assess the health care providers' compliance with infection control practices in the hemodialysis units in order to decrease mortality and morbidity of both patients and health care providers in the Gaza Governorates. The design of this study is a cross sectional: quantitative and qualitative analytical design with census sample. The data were collected using four tools: well-structured self-administered questionnaire; observational checklist for health care providers practice; observational checklist for physical environment assessment; and focus group. In total, 77 questionnaires were collected, 228 practice observational checklists, 5 physical environment observational checklists, and one focus group. Findings of the study revealed that 85.7% of the study participants were males; the majority of study populations were married (93.5%); 24.7% were physicians and 75.3% were nurses. The study showed that the majority (91.88%) of the study participants agreed on the importance and necessity of Infection Prevention and Control protocol for the services provided in the hemodialysis unit. The majority of the study participants neither had adequate training (70.13%) nor had adequate knowledge (55.84%) about the Infection Prevention and Control protocol. The study findings revealed that hospital management does not efficiently exercising its role in encouraging health care providers to be compliant with Infection Prevention and Control protocol. The findings of the self-administered questionnaire showed that: the compliance with wearing uniform was 83.11%; hand washing score was 72.54%; wearing gloves score was 82.14%; using antiseptic and disinfectant score was 77.01%; and safe work practices 41.88% while the observed practices showed that: wearing uniform practices was 71.5%; hand washing was 52.24%; wearing gloves was 92.84%; using antiseptic and disinfectant was 67.11%; and safe work practices was 75.33%. Moreover, the study revealed that 55.8% of the health care providers were exposed to an injury from used needles or sharp medical instruments. Additionally, the study found that only 67.5% of the health care providers working in the hemodialysis unit received the recommended three doses of hepatitis B vaccine. Finally, the study showed that the study participants recognized insufficient time, lack of required supplies, lack of knowledge and education, lack of job satisfaction, inadequate training program and lack of updated information, lack of guidelines from colleagues and superior, absence of accountability and feedback from administration, and high workload as the main barriers for good compliance with Infection Prevention and Control protocol in the hemodialysis units. The above mentioned findings were consistent with that of the focus group. Additionally, it highlighted the presence of conflict in hepatitis B post vaccination testing and factors that hinder the establishment of national infection control protocol. There is a need to adopt a Palestinian Infection Prevention and Control protocol special for hemodialysis unit; to implement a continuous education and training programs for healthcare staff concerning Infection Prevention and Control protocol; to disseminate printed and softcopies copies of the Infection Prevention and Control protocol; to activate the monitoring role of auditing system to improve health care providers' compliance with Infection Prevention and Control protocol.

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List of Abbreviations

APIC	Association For Professionals In Infection Control And Epidemiology
BBV	Blood Borne Virus
CDC	Centers For Disease Control And Prevention
GG	Gaza Governorates
HCP's	Health Care Providers
HD	Hemodialysis
HBV	Hepatitis B Virus
HCV	Hepatitis C Virus
HAI	Hospital Associated Infections
IC	Infection Control
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control
MoH	Ministry Of Health
MROs	Multi-Resistant Organisms
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau Of Statistics
PLO	Palestinian Liberation Organization
PNA	Palestinian National Authority
PHC	Primary Health Care
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
WB	West Bank Governorates
WHO	World Health Organization

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