

**Factors Affecting Nursing Compliance to Infection Control Standard
Precautions in Jordanian Hospitals**

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ABSTRACT

Background: Nurses are at high risk of nosocomial infections because they are the health care providers who have the most direct contact with patients. Therefore, nurses should strictly comply with standard precautions while interacting with their patients. Low level of compliance among nurses is still reported in literature.

Purpose: To assess the level of compliance with standard precautions among Jordanian nurses and to investigate the various factors that might affect their compliance.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional design was used in this study. A validated self-reported questionnaire; the Arabic version of the "Infection Control Practices Tool" was used on 300 nurses. The nurses were included from four major hospitals in Jordan, representing the four health sectors; private, public, educational, and military.

Results: Findings of this study showed that around 61% of nurses demonstrated high compliance to standard precautions of infection control, 39% demonstrated weak compliance and none of the nurses' compliance was considered unsafe. Moreover, Female nurses were significantly associated with a higher compliance score ($r=.134$, $P< .05$) than male nurses. Also nurses who received infection control training courses were significantly associated with higher compliance score ($r= .171$, $P< .01$).

Unit type, hospital type, training, awareness of the presence of an IC nurse, awareness of the presence of an IC committee, awareness of the presence of an IC manual, and receiving hepatitis B virus vaccine were found to be factors that produce difference in nurses' compliance score. Finally, time constrains, lack of equipment, and excessive workload were found to be the most important perceived barriers that affect Jordanian nurses' compliance to infection control standard precautions.

Conclusion: Standard precautions are considered one of the most important public health concerns. Thus, teaching programs in hospitals for nurses, especially awareness of unsafe practices is highly recommended. Also, activating the role of the infection control nurse for all departments and not limiting their role to high-risk units only.

Keywords: Standard precautions, universal precautions, compliance, nurses and Jordan.