

ABSTRACT: POSTER PRESENTATION

## Assessment of knowledge, attitudes, and practices on infection control among nursing officers at Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children

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**Introduction:** Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs) are directly associated with increased mortality and morbidity. They impose risks on healthcare workers too. Infection control in health institutions, particularly in paediatric units is critically important to mitigate the prevalence of HAIs. Global literature gives evidence that Nursing Officers (NOs) play a significant role in infection control.

**Objective:** To assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of infection control among NOs in Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children (LRH) and to determine factors associated with them.

**Methodology:** A hospital-based descriptive cross-sectional study was done. Data was collected through a validated self-administered questionnaire and through participant observation. A sample of 317 NOs was selected from a sampling frame of 893. The participant observation was performed to assess real-time practices through uninformed observations.

**Results:** A total of 260 NOs participated in the study. The response rate was 82%. Overall knowledge, attitudes, and practices were found good (or above) among Nos regarding infection control. Age was significantly associated with knowledge and attitudes. Marital status was also associated with attitudes. Education and nursing grades were associated with knowledge. None of the factors was associated with practices. Knowledge showed a weak correlation with attitudes ( $r = 0.187$ ) and attitudes showed a moderate correlation with practices ( $r = 0.349$ ). Observations found that hand washing was poor among NOs with only a 50% success rate. Success rates for cannulation, drug administration, and PPE usage were 60%, 71%, and 83% respectively.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:** In general, knowledge, attitudes, and practices of NOs in LRH were satisfactory except for observed hand hygiene practices. All socio-demographic factors; age, level of education, nursing grade, and working experience significantly associated with knowledge. Only age and marital status had a significant association with attitudes. None of the socio-demographic factors were associated with the practices of infection control. Attitudes correlated with knowledge while practices correlated with attitudes. Hand hygiene practices must be strengthened. In-service training and workshops on infection control should be promoted. Further research shall be encouraged to explore the constraints of proper infection control.

**Keywords** Healthcare-Associated infections, Infection Control, Nursing Officers.

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