# Nurses' Compliance with Infection Prevention and Control Practices at

#### **General Surgical Units**

Elijah Kipkorir Koros, Staff Nurse Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, Eldoret, Kenya

Sanaa Mohamed Alaa Eldin, Professor Medical Surgical Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Alexandria University

Haneya Mohamed El-Banna, Professor Medical Surgical Nursing, Faculty of Nursing, Alexandria University

#### Lilian Adhiambo Omondi, Lecturer Medical Surgical Nursing, School of Nursing, University of Nairobi, Kenya

#### Abstract

Hospital-acquired infections results due to lapsed compliance with Infection prevention and control practices in health care set ups. Nurses provide direct care to the patients while performing varied clinical procedures; therefore, they are pivotal in implementation of infection prevention and control practices. **Objective:** Assess the nurses' compliance with infection prevention and control practices in surgical units. **Setting:** The study was conducted at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital Surgical wards Eldoret, Kenya. **Subjects:** Data was collected from 100 randomly selected surgical nurses. **Tools:** Two tools were utilized; interviewer-administered questionnaire and structured observational checklist. **Results:** Sixty nine percent of the nurses were compliant with recommended hand hygiene practices; 99% of the nurses used gloves but fewer used other personal protective equipment like goggles (25%) and gowns (37%). Seventy percent of were compliant with safe injection practices. In overall, 85.6% of studied nurses reported to be compliant while 80% of them were observed to be compliant. **Conclusion:** Most of the studied nurses complied with the recommended infection prevention and control practices but compliance varied across different domains of practice indications. **Recommendations:** The hospital should develop infection prevention and control practices used should evelop infection prevention and control practices.

Keywords: Infection prevention and control; Nurses compliance.

#### Introduction

Infection control is an essential element within the confines of a health-care delivery system concerned with preventing healthcare-associated infections (HCAIs)<sup>(1)</sup>. Infection prevention and control utilizes systematic practices, measures and protocols to mitigate the threats posed by care associated health infections  $(\text{HCAIs})^{(2,3)}$ . These measures are aimed at creating a safe healthcare environment through the implementation of practices that lessen the risk of transmission of infectious  $agents^{(2)}$ .

Infections in health care settings is a global problem representing one of the key causes of morbidity and mortality associated with hospitalization<sup>(4)</sup>. World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 7-10% of hospitalized patients at any given time will acquire at least one health care-associated infection leading to significant mortality(5-10%) with financial losses for health systems<sup>(5,6)</sup>. Fortunately, Bagheri et al. (2014) stated that, HCAIs are potentially preventable adverse event rather than an erratic complication with effective infection prevention and control (IPC) practices adherence<sup>(4)</sup>.

Health care associated infections have continued to plague users of health care settings since their inception as institutions for healing the sick despite major advances in health care technologies and scientific discoveries. Consequently, IPC has since become a constant and fundamental safety issue in nearly all health facilities in developed countries<sup>(6)</sup>. Most patient safety programs have anchored universal safe IPC practices in the clinical settings to mitigate the dangers posed by such HCAIs<sup>(2)</sup>.

Reports of HCAIs rates in most African countries are inadequate; some literature on incidence of HCAI outbreaks and hospital-wide prevalence surveys revealed rates ranging between 2.5% and 14.8%<sup>(7)</sup>, in Egypt the documented prevalence is 16% and as high as 26% in intensive care units and in India 6-18%<sup>(8)</sup>. Some systematic reviews indicate that surgical sites infection (SSIs) averages 5.7% to 30% in African countries; in Tanzania 19%, Uganda 10%, Benin 22.3% and in Kenya 19%<sup>(9)</sup>.

In Kenya there is very scanty information on studies regarding HCAIs and more so SSIs. Therefore the actual burden of HCAIs is yet to be accurately quantified; available studies estimated its prevalence at about 10-25% of total hospital admissions in government facilities<sup>(10,11)</sup>. These illustrate well the pressing need to identify and execute viable and sustainable approaches to strengthen HCAI prevention, surveillance, and control not only in Africa, but more specifically in Kenya.

Center for diseases prevention and control (CDC) recommends isolation precautions for effective prevention of HCAIs in hospitals. These precautions are in two tiers: standard precautions (SP) and transmission based precautions (TBP). Standard includes a cluster of infection prevention practices that apply to every patient, in spite of suspected or confirmed infection status, in every setting in which healthcare is delivered<sup>(12)</sup>.

The main domains of SP include; hand hygiene; use of personal protective equipments (gloves, gown, mask, eye protection, or face shield) depending on the anticipated exposure; and safe injection practices. Also, care of equipment or items in the patient environment and waste management. Implementation of these SP practices constitutes the primary IPC strategy for the prevention of healthcareassociated infections<sup>(10,13)</sup>. Documented evidence has shown that the incidence of postoperative infections can be reduced by 20% to 34% through adoption of "safe and sound" patient care practices<sup>(14)</sup>. Systematic reviews of evidence points to non compliance to these IPC practices and procedures by health care workers as attributable to increased risk for HCAIs<sup>(15)</sup>.

In Kenya, a study done by Storr et al. (2017) estimated health care workers' IPC practices compliance rate in primary health care facilities at 31%<sup>(6)</sup>. In a self reported study in another Kenyan hospital the compliance was  $61\%^{(16)}$ . This is despite the fact that hospitals are the epicenter of HCAIs; where compliance with IPC practices must be adhered with strictest sense. Such findings reflect selective and suboptimal compliance by health professionals which exposes them to avoidable risks<sup>(17)</sup>.

Nurses form the bulk of the health care workers (HCWs) team and are in the frontline in health care delivery<sup>(18)</sup>. Routine nursing services and procedures are closely entwined with IPC practices owing to the close proximity and interaction nurses have with different patients with assorted infections. This makes nurses have an important role in breaking the chain of infection by strictly complying with IPC practice indications<sup>(19)</sup>.

There has been little information on IPC practice compliance research in low and middle-income countries. and particularly in Kenya. There is no evidence at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) as regards to the level of compliance to IPC practices by surgical wards nurses. This study therefore aimed to determine the level of compliance by nurses with IPC practices in MTRH. The results will present much needed evidence for planning, designing and implementation of infection prevention and control strategies, geared towards reinforcing sustainable and consistent IPC practices. The study results

as well will provide basis for further research relating to impact of the resultant compliance level.

## Aim of the Study

This study aimed to assess nurses' compliance with infection control practices in general surgical units at MTRH, Eldoret-Kenya.

## **Research Question:**

What is the nurses' compliance level to infection prevention and control practices in general surgical units at MTRH, Eldoret-Kenya?

# Materials and Method

#### Materials

**Design:** A descriptive research design was be utilized to carry out this study.

<u>Setting</u>: The study was conducted at the inpatient surgical units of Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), Eldoret, Kenya.

<u>Subjects</u>: Subjects of the study consisted of a random sample of 100 nurses working at the surgical units for at least the past six months who consented for the study. Epi info program V 7.0 was used to find the sample size.

<u>*Tools:*</u> Two tools were utilized in conducting this study for data collection:

#### **Tool I: Surgical Nurses' Compliance with IPC Practices Questionnaire**

This tool was developed by the researcher after extensive review of related and had it comprised of two parts as follows:

*Part 1:* Nurses Bio-socio-demographic Data: such as age, gender, education level, ranking, employment, hepatitis B vaccination status, years of work experience, history of sharps injury and attendance of courses relevant to the IPC practices as well as a serial code identifier of the questionnaire.

Part 2: Nurses' Self Reported Compliance with IPC Practices: Comprised statements relating to the assessment of nurses' frequency of compliance with IPC practices on a 3 point likert scale (Always, sometimes and never). The compliance practices included group of statements relating to: Hand hygiene, personal protective devices, safe injection practices, linen management, waste disposal and surgical dressing aseptic technique. Nurses' responses were scored on a 3 point likert scale ranging from "Always (score 2)", "sometimes (score 1)" and "never (score 0)". The total score for this part was calculated and converted into percentage scores. Subtotal and total percent scores of  $\geq$ 75% denote compliance, while scores of < 75% implied noncompliance.

#### **Tool II: Infection Prevention and Control Compliance Observation Checklist**

This tool was used to record the nurses' observed compliance with IPC practices as they were performing nursing procedures. The checklist was linked to tool (I) by use of code identifier. It comprised of IPC practice items expected with compliance activities relating to: Hand hygiene, personal protective devices, safe injection practices, linen management, waste disposal and surgical dressing aseptic technique. A score of 1 was given for compliant and 0 for none compliant. The total score for this part was calculated and converted into percentage score. Subtotal and total percent scores of  $\geq$ 75 % (scores of >31.5) denotes compliance, while scores of of <75% (scores <31.5) implies noncompliance.

#### Method

- The study protocol was approved by Faculty of Nursing Alexandria University ethics committee and Moi University/Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH) Institutional Research Ethics Committee and (IREC). Likewise, MTRH administrative authorities.

- Tool (I) was developed and tool (II) was modified by the researcher based on extensive review of the relevant literature.
- Content validity of both tools was tested by a jury of 5 experts specialized in the field of medical surgical nursing in Alexandria university to test for tools clarity, completeness and comprehensiveness.
- Reliability of tool (1) was tested by using Cronbach's Alpha test. The tool was found to be internally reliable with Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of (0.806).
- Pilot study was carried out on 10 nurses (10% of study sample) to test the feasibility, clarity and applicability of the study tools.
- Data collection process:
  - Simple random sampling using proportionate allocation method to all surgical wards was used to obtain the total sample size of 100 surgical nurses.
  - Randomly selected nurse participants were observed for 2-3 hours using concealed observations for opportunities during nursing care requiring application of IPC practices. The nurses' actual practices were recorded by the researcher using tool II. Individual nurses were only observed once for the specified IPC practice application.
  - After finishing all the observations, the observed nurses were interviewed using tool (I) which had the same code identifier as tool (II) for between 30-45 minutes.

#### **Ethical considerations:**

- Informed written nurses' consent was obtained after explanation of the aim of the study.
- Nurses' were informed that their participation was voluntary, their

privacy and right to withdraw from the study was respected.

• The anonymity, security and confidentiality of collected data were ascertained.

# Statistical Analysis

- The raw data collected was coded and entered into statistical Package for social scientists (SPSS) version 20 software data sheet, data was then cleaned and verified using the primary source documents(tool I or II). Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 20 where descriptive statistics were generated for categorical and continuous variables.
- The association between quantified qualitative variables was assessed using **Pearson's chi square test** ( $X^2$ ). The exact tests were used as alternatives when: The overall total of the table was less than 20, or the overall total was between 20 and 40 but with the smallest of the expected numbers in any of the cells being less than 5. The level of significance selected for this study was  $p \le 0.05$ .
- T-test was used for comparison between quantitative data in the same group  $p \le 0.05$ .

# **Results**

**Table (1)** shows that a total of 100 nurses consented and participated in this study, slightly more than three quarters (76.0 %) were females and 24% were male. Almost two thirds of the nurses (64%) had diploma in nursing; with 35% having bachelor's degree. Majority of the nurses (79%) had been vaccinated against Hepatitis B, of those who were vaccinated only about two thirds (65.8%) had received all the three doses recommended for protection.

**Table (2a)** illustrates that nearly a third (63%) of the nurses acknowledged performing hand hygiene (HH) "always",

before contact with any patients but nearly half (47%) reported to do so when in contact with different patients. The overall nurses' compliance in hand hygiene domain was 69%. Most nurses (99%) were compliant with IPC practice indications of gloves use with percent scores of 96.85±5.25.

**Table (2b)** exhibits that 66% and 25% of the studied nurses acknowledged wearing a mask and protective eye patch/goggles respectively. When handling soiled linen, a large majority of the nurses (94%) used gloves with 73% folding them with contamination to the inside.

**Table (2c)** the overall participants' "compliance" with safe injection practices domain was 70%. The overall self reported compliance score for all the domains was 85.58±8.35.

**Table (3a)** demonstrates that less than half (49%) of the observed nurses performed hand hygiene before contact with any patients. When in contact with different patients, almost a third of the nurses (35%) were compliant with the recommended hand hygiene practices. In relation to use of masks/goggles while performing procedures that might induce spraying of blood, body fluid, secretions and excretions; majority of nurses wore face masks (77%), however very few wore protective eye patch/goggles (14%) or protective suit/gowns (38%). The overall compliance in this domain was 92%.

Table (3b) illustrates that in linen management; most nurses (94%) wore gloves before handling soiled linen. The table further exhibits that waste generation and disposal was in accordance with hospital policy in 80% of the observed cases, also most of the observed nurses discarded sharps (95%) and infectious waste (80%) into the designated receptacles. Also, it is evident from this table that the majority of the participants' during wound dressing; cleaned the trolley (85%) and checked the integrity of the sterile pack (65%). Nevertheless, less than half of them (46%) checked the expiry date of the packs. Moreover, more than half of them maintained the sterility of the field. In total, the compliance in this domain was 55%.

**Table (4)** exemplify that no association was found between studied nurses' selfreported compliance with IPC activities and their social demographic factors or work related characteristics.

**Table (5)** exhibits that in two domains: hand hygiene and use of personal protective equipments, the results demonstrates a significant difference (p=0.001). This shows that in hand hygiene, nurses reports to perform HH practices more than they actually do under observations. Also in regards to PPE use, it implies nurses' reports to use PPEs than they actually under observation. The overall difference in self and reported compliance observed compliance was also significant (p=0.001).

# Discussion

Patients admitted especially in surgical units are at increased risks of all types of HCAIs; it has been approximated that more than 10% of such patients admitted in most hospitals contract clinically significant HCAIs; 50% being SSIs<sup>(20)</sup>. Subsequently, there is a particular need for strict observation of IPC measures against cross infection when caring for patients undergoing treatment in surgical units<sup>(21)</sup>. Therefore all HCWs must apply IPC measures during their interactions with all patients at all the times to lessen the spread of HCAIs<sup>(2)</sup>. The main problem however, is non adherence with IPC measures by care givers when performing ward procedures<sup>(6)</sup>.

The demographics of this study agree in many aspects with those of many other studies done among nurses. In terms of gender, majority of the participants in this study were females; similar to that of Ganesh et al.  $(2016)^{(22)}$ , Kamunge  $(2017)^{(23)}$ and Chisanga  $(2017)^{(24)}$ . Kenya nursing workforce report by Martha Rogers (2012) shows the same trend with less than a third of nursing workforce being male<sup>(25)</sup>. This reaffirms the notion that nursing is still predominantly female dominated profession<sup>(26)</sup>.

Concerning the level of education, majority of the nurses in this study had diploma in nursing. This was in agreement with other studies done by Moyo  $(2013)^{(27)}$ and Shurafi  $(2015)^{(28)}$  where majority of the nurses are diploma holders. Kamunge  $(2013)^{(23)}$  study however, revealed that 70% of the nurses had bachelors degree in Nursing. In Kenya, majority of the nurses are holders of diploma certificates. Ministry of health in Kenya approximates that only 3% of the nurses have a degree in nursing<sup>(25)</sup>. This is not surprising though because most nursing training institutions in Kenya offer diploma level of education. Some studies have shown significant association between higher levels of education and higher knowledge as well as improved compliance with infection prevention and control practices<sup>(26)</sup>.

In this study, it is notable that less than a quarter of the nurses reported to having attended IPC training six months prior to this study. Tiriyanhu et al.  $(2014)^{(29)}$  while exploring barriers to IPC practice among nurses in a Zimbabwean hospital indicated that more than two thirds of nurses had not attended any infection prevention and control workshops. This may be attributed to high workload, fewer years of experience and poor arrangements of workshops. Ongoing trainings on IPC practices is regarded as one of the best strategies to improve knowledge and refine practice skills necessary for compliance with IPC measures<sup>(30)</sup>.

Although the variables of age, gender, training and level of education were theoretically validated variables in this study, they were found to be nonsignificantly associated with IPC compliance. This could be due to the fact that the population which was sampled was homogenous in regards to most these variables. The vast majority of participants were female, aged below forty, diploma holders with a few trained in IPC practices. Most training courses were of short duration.

Hepatitis B virus infection continues to pose a major risk to nurses despite its vaccines having proved safe and protective against it. Vaccination against HBV is highly recommended for all HCWs and especially nurses<sup>(31)</sup>. In this study more than three quarters of the nurses had been vaccinated against HBV, however only a third received all the three doses recommended for protection. This finding is comparable to those documented by Fashafsheh et al. (2015)<sup>(26)</sup> and Sodhi et al. (2016) <sup>(32)</sup> of 80% vaccination rates among nurses. Fashafsheh et al.  $(2016)^{(33)}$  had a very high compliance to vaccination of 95.1%, this they may be attributed to vigorous promotion of safety culture and climate within the hospital.

Hand hygiene is acknowledged as an essential measure to avert the spread of microorganisms from one patient to another  $(\overline{34})$ . Despite vast evidence emphasizing the significance of performing HH, in this study the five care-related HH practices assessed revealed a highly varied compliance to the recommended practices. Compliance with HH practices was higher when the risk was perceived to be higher. This perception was demonstrated by higher percentage compliance after contact with body fluids than before touching patients. This is corroborated by Gebresilassie et al.  $(2014)^{(35)}$  study on standard precautions practices among HCWs in Ethiopia, their results show that one third of nurses performed HH measures before procedures but a higher proportion washed their hands when there was contact with body fluids during the procedure.

The finding of a greater HH compliance rate after exposure with any body fluids when compared to HH compliance prior to patient contact suggested that participants in this study were more likely to be motivated to perform HH out of concerns for their own safety rather than concern for the safety of their patients.

In another study on compliance with national Palestinian IPC guidelines by

Eljedi and Dalo  $(2014)^{(36)}$ , they found that only minority of nurses adhered to hand washing as recommended. In addition, the overall frequency of hand washing in their study was 6.7% before patient contact and 23.7% after patient contact. Yawson et al.  $(2013)^{(37)}$  study reflected the same trend with HH compliance rates of 9.6% to 54% among studied nurses.

Furthermore, studied nurses reported higher compliance than what was actually observed. For example, less than half of the nurses performed HH before contact with the patients compared to about two thirds who reported to being compliant. Eljedi and Dalo  $(2014)^{(36)}$  study had similar findings showing nurses reported that they wash their hands more than they actually do; in their results, the observed compliance with HH practices revealed that only 45.9% of the participants performed HH compared with the 79.7% who had indicated otherwise in their self reports. The proportion of nurses complying with HH practices when in contact with different patients was at 47% implying a potentially high risk of cross infection.

For the protection from potential exposure to blood and other body fluids, nurses are expected to use different types of PPEs depending on the nature of the procedure and patient interactions<sup>(31)</sup>. The findings of present study indicate that almost all the nurses used gloves when expected during their interaction with the patients. This was higher than those reported in other studies by Gebresilassie et al.  $(2014)^{(35)}$  in Ethiopia (86.7%) and Wasswa et al. (2015) in Arua Uganda  $(66\%)^{(38)}$ . On the other hand, compliance to use of gowns goggles and facemasks were very low. Gloves were the most worn protective gear probably because they are relatively affordable and available compared to other personal protective wear such as  $gowns^{(38)}$ .

Nurses are expected to dispose all clinical waste including sharps according to local policy to prevent occupational exposures. In this study it is encouraging to note that a majority of the studied nurses were compliant with waste disposal practices; both observed and self reported scores was above 87%. These findings indicate that majority of the nurses have inculcated proper waste disposal norms in their work ethics. These findings were similar with those of Gebresilassie et al.  $(2014)^{(35)}$  and Hakim, Mohsen and Bakr  $(2014)^{(39)}$  who reported 92.8% and 84.8% compliance among nurses respectively.

Concerning safe injection practices and sharps disposal, the results of this study showed that, after giving injection or drawing blood from patients, some nurses still recap used needles. This was similar to the findings of Wasswa et al.  $(2015)^{(38)}$ where 31.9% of HCWs always recapped needles. On the contrary, Chisanga (2017)<sup>(24)</sup> on her study of knowledge, attitudes and practices of nurses in IPC in Zambia reported 92.8% compliance with the recommended practice. Other studies with lower prevalence of this practice (10.7%) among nurses includes that of Esena et al.  $(2013)^{(40)}$  study in Ghana. These finding shows nurses are yet to perceive the risks associated with this malpractice<sup>(38)</sup>. Recapping of used needles is not a recommended IPC nursing practice as it predisposes nurses to sharps injuries and can be a source of infection<sup>(24)</sup>.

The current study further reveals that, almost all the nurses disposed used needles in puncture resistant containers and over three quarters of them carried safety boxes to the point of use. Ganesh et al. (2015)<sup>(22)</sup> who investigated knowledge and practices of safe injection and disposal methods among nursing personnel; indicated that 89.5% of the nurses collected used needles and syringes in the safety box and 10.5% dispensed it with general waste.

Regarding linen management, most nurses used gloves when handling soiled linen, it was however note worthy that even fewer of them folded linen with contamination to inside. Eljedi and Dalo  $(2014)^{(36)}$  in their study had comparable findings where more than two thirds of the nurses' were compliant with regard to linen management practices. If nurses fail to handle soiled linen with minimum agitation, using gloves and with contamination to inside; it can result to contamination of self or patient environment<sup>(41)</sup>.

Nurses are recommended to employ aseptic technique during wound dressing to avoid introducing micro organisms to susceptible body sites<sup>(31)</sup>. However, the results in this study reveals that, while majority of the nurses believed they applied aseptic techniques during wound dressing; only slightly more than half of them were observed to be compliant. Furthermore, the results shows wide variability in application of the various aspects of sterile techniques: cleaning of procedure trolley, checking integrity of sterile packs, HH after the procedure and use of sterile gloves were the most complied by majority of nurses. But checking the dates of expiry of the dressing pack and maintaining asepsis throughout the wound dressing procedure had less nurses complying. Inevitably, the nurses' efforts to comply with most procedure steps of aseptic technique is undermined by non compliance in steps some hence compromising the efficacy of the technique<sup>(42)</sup>.

This results is in support of the findings of Oluwakemi et al. (2017)<sup>(43)</sup> study of 'Knowledge, attitude and practice of surgical site infection prevention among post-operative nurses in a tertiary health institution in north-central Nigeria'. The study indicated that most of nurses use aseptic technique during wound dressing. But the HH practices in their study had fewer nurses complying compared with our study findings. Jerotich (2016)<sup>(44)</sup> in her study revealed that 21.4% opened sterile dressing packs aseptically and 29% checked the expiry of the packs. This finding indicates substandard compliance with aseptic techniques.

When the self reported compliance and observed compliance were compared, it showed significant difference in HH compliance and use of PPEs. Eljedi and Dalo (2014)<sup>(36)</sup> findings are in agreement with these results. Their study reveals that in HH practices, only 45.9% of the participants washed their hands properly compared with the 79.7% who had indicated otherwise in their self reports. These findings imply that in hand hygiene, nurses reported to perform HH practices more than they actually do under observations. Also in regards to PPE use, it implies nurses' reports to use PPEs more than they actually do under observation. The observed compliance indicates a more truthful reflection of the actual practice by the nurses.

The overall nurses' compliance with IPC practices in the current study was good as majority of the nurses were compliant with recommended practices. However, compliance varied widely across different domains of IPC practice indications. This is reflected by Valim et al. (2016)<sup>(45)</sup> conclusion that professionals' compliance with IPC practices has remained at an irregular and worrying low level. Despite the hospital success in engendering the safety culture shift in use of gloves, waste linen management; and further organizational support in other elements of IPC is crucial to sustain high level of  $compliance^{(46)}$ .

# Conclusion

Most of the nurses complied with the recommended IPC practices. However, there was irregular application of the IPC practices across different domains of IPC practices. Nurses self reported compliance with IPC practices was statistically significantly higher in hand hygiene practices and use of PPEs.

#### **Recommendations**

- Regular monitoring of IPC practice implementation through random infection control spot checks in the hospitals.
- The hospital should ensure adequate supply of PPEs, Alcohol based hand rubs and equipments to support effective implementation of IPC practices.
- Nurses should be encouraged to be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

Social-demographic data	No.=100	%	
Gender			
Male	24	24.0	
Female	76	76.0	
Age (years)			
20 - 29	13	13.0	
30 - 39	65	65.0	
40-49	19	19.0	
50+	3	3.0	
Min. – Max.	-	- 55.0	
Mean $\pm$ SD.		$\pm 6.06$	
Experience (years)			
<5 y	13	13.0	
5 - <10	50	50.0	
10 - <15	19	19.0	
15+	18	18.0	
Min. – Max.		- 26.0	
Mean $\pm$ SD.		± <b>5.65</b>	
Terms of employment	7.50	- <i></i>	
Contract	0	0.0	
Permanent and pensionable	100	100.0	
	100	100.0	
Nursing education level	64	64.0	
Diploma Dechalere decree	64 25	<b>64.0</b> 35.0	
Bachelors degree	35	1.0	
Master's degree in nursing	1	1.0	
Work related characteristics			
Hepatitis B virus vaccination	-	-	
Yes	79	79.0	
No	21	21.0	
Completed vaccination $(n = 79)$		<b>17</b> 0	
Yes	52	65.8	
No	24	30.4	
Not sure	3	3.8	
Training on infection prevention and control practices			
(last 6 months)			
Yes	24	24.0	
No	76	76.0	
Training adequacy $(n = 24)$			
Yes	12	54.5.	
No	10	45.5	
<b>Duration of training</b> $(n = 24)$			
Min. – Max.	1.0 - 4.0		
Mean $\pm$ SD.	$1.46 \pm 0.83$		
Sharps related injury (last 6 months) (n = 100)			
No	97	97.0	
Yes	3	3.3	
Reporting of sharps related injury (n=3)			
Yes	3	100.0	
No	0	0.0	

Table (1): Frequency distribution of the studied nurses' according to socialdemographic data and work related characteristics

Table (2a): Frequency distribution of studied nurses'	self reported compliance with
infection prevention and control practices (n=100)	

		Frequency of compliance						
Para	meters regarding to IPC practices	Alv	vays	Some	etimes	Ne	ver	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Han	l Hygiene							
1.	Wash/sanitize hands before contact with any patient	63	63.0	37	37.0	0	0.0	
2.	Wash/ sanitize hands when in contact between different patients	47	47.0	52	52.0	1	1.0	
3.	Wash hands after taking off gloves	76	76.0	21	21.0	3	3.0	
	Wash hands immediately after contacting any blood, body	98	98.0	2	2.0	0	0.0	
4.	fluid, secretion, excretion or potentially contaminated materials							
5.	Sanitize hands with alcohol if not visibly contaminated	35	35.0	64	64.0	1	1.0	
Non	compliance			3	1		<u> </u>	
Com	pliance			6	9			
T-4-			in –M	ax	Mean ± SD.			
1 ota	% score	$50.0 - 100.0$ $81.40 \pm 12.$					2.39	
Pers	onal protective equipment's: gloving							
6.	Remove gloves if visibly contaminated and perform hand hygiene	94	94.0	6	6.0	0	0.0	
7.	Glove when drawing blood samples	91	91.0	9	9.0	0	0.0	
8.	Glove when disposing stool and urine	97	97.0	2	2.0	1	1.0	
9.	Glove when handling impaired patient skin	96	96.0	3	3.0	1	1.0	
10.		95	95.0	4	4.0	1	1.0	
11.		98	98.0	0	0.0	2	2.0	
	Glove when administering parenteral medications		84.0		16.0	0	0.0	
	Glove when dressing wounds		100.0		0.0		0.0	
	Glove when cleaning blood traces		100.0		0.0	0	0.0	
	Glove when performing venipuncture	89	89.0		11.0		0.0	
	compliance							
	pliance			9	9			
		Mi	n. – M			ean ± S	SD.	
Tota	l % score		.0 – 10			$85 \pm 5$		

# Table (2b): Frequency distribution of studied nurses according to their compliance with IPC practices PPE (masks, goggles and gown), linen and waste management domains (n=100)

		Frequency of compliance						
Para	meters regarding to IPC practices	Alv	vays	Some	etimes No		ever	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
	Personal protective equipment's: masks, gowns and goggles							
16.	Wear mask when performing/assisting in operations/procedures that might induce spraying of blood, body fluid, secretions and excretions	66	66.0	32	32.0	2	2.0	
17.	Wear protective eye patch or goggle when performing operations/procedures that might induce spraying of blood, body fluid, secretions and excretions	/procedures that might induce spraying of		34.0	41	41.0		
18.	Wear protective suit or gown when performing operations/procedures that might induce spraying of blood, body fluid, secretions and excretions	37	37 37.0 45		45.0	18	18.0	
	Non compliance			6	68			
	Compliance			3	32			
	Percent scores	M	in. – M	ax.	Me	lean ± SD.		
		16.67 - 100.0			61.17 ± 25.5			
	Handling soiled linen							
	Wear gloves before handling soil linen	94	94.0	4	4.0	2	2.0	
20.	Fold soiled linen with contamination to inside during bed making	73	73.0	15	15.0	12	12.0	
21.	Handle the linen in a way to keep from contaminating your skin, mucous membrane or clothing	88	88.0	11	11.0	1	1.0	
22.	Manage soiled linen away from patient area	77	77.0	22	22.0	1	1.0	
23.	Dispose soiled linen in leak proof plastic bags	36	36.0	24	24.0	40	40.0	
	Non compliance			3	33			
	Compliance			e	67			
	Percent scores	M	in. – M	ax.	Me	Mean ± SD.		
	r er cent scores	30	.0 – 10	0.0	81.2	$20 \pm 10$	6.41	
	Waste management							
24.	Discard waste into the appropriate waste receptacle according to local policy	73	73.0	25	25.0	2	2.0	
25.	Segregated the syringe into a leak proof, puncture- resistant sharps container	91	91.0	7	7.0	2	2.0	
26.	Segregated swabs, gauzes and other infectious waste into a yellow or red bin with matching bag	76	76.0	20	20.0	4	4.0	
	Non compliance			1	9			
	Compliance			8	81			
		M	in. – M	ax.	Me	ean ± S	SD.	
	Percent scores	0.	0 - 100	0.0	88.0	$57 \pm 18$	8.18	

27.	Parameters regarding to IPC practices	Alv			of comp etimes		ever
27			Always Som				
27		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
27	Safe injection practices						
41.	Use the one-hand syringe recapping method/ don't recap used syringe	68	68.0	19	19.0	13	13.0
28.	Dispose needles and blades in containers that are specific for that purpose	95	95.0	4	4.0	1	1.0
29.	Carry safety box for point of use disposal of used sharps	78	78.0	20	20.0	2	2.0
30.	In case of workplace accidents with potentially- contaminated sharp materials, immediately squeezes the affected part, disinfects it, and dresses the wound		66.0	21	21.0	13	13.0
31.	Report all risk-exposure incidents, even when the incident is of high- or low-risk exposure		65.0	32	32.0	3	3.0
32.	Close and seal the sharps box when 2/3 full		37.0	42	42.0	21	21.0
	Non compliance			3	30		
	Compliance			7	<u>'0</u>		
	Percent scores	Μ	in. – M	ax.	Mean ± SD.		
		41.67 - 100.0			$79.67 \pm 15.23$		
	Surgical wound dressing aseptic technique						
33.	Clean the trolley/tray/surface with detergent and water or detergent wipes before wound dressing	91	91.0	9	9.0	0	0.0
34.	Check the integrity of sterile packs prior to use for any procedure in the ward	85	85.0	12	12.0	3	3.0
35.	Check the expiry date of sterile packs prior to use	61	61.0	32	32.0	7	7.0
36.	Remove sterile packs from their outer packaging using a non-touch technique	76	76.0	23	23.0	1	1.0
37.	Open the sterile packs using only the corners of the wrapping, taking care not to touch any of the sterile contents	78	78.0	21	21.0	1	1.0
38.	Arrange the items on the sterile field using sterile gloves	66	66.0	31	31.0	3	3.0
39.	Use non sterile gloves to remove old wound dressings	72	72.0	25	25.0	3	3.0
40.	Perform hand hygiene after dressing removal	75	75.0	23	23.0	2	2.0
41.	Maintain asepsis throughout the wound dressing	82	82.0	18	18.0	0	0.0
42.	Dress a wound site with sterile dressing	88	88.0	12	12.0	0	0.0
43.	Ensure no contamination of the outer surface of sterile gloves if worn	86	86.0	14	14.0	0	0.0
	Non compliance		•	1	4		•
l t	Compliance			8	86		
	Percent scores Min. – Max.		Mean ± SD. 88.67 ± 18.18				
	Percent scores		$\frac{100}{100} - 100$		1		

# Table (2c): Frequency distribution of studied nurses according to their compliance with IPC practices (safe injection practices and aseptic technique domains) (no=100)

Table (3a): Frequency distribution of the studied nurses according to the obs	served
compliance with IPC practices (hand hygiene, PPE and injection safety dor	nains)
(no=100)	

	Level of compliance					
Compliance activity	Com	pliant		on-	Not	
···· <b>F</b>		-	compliant			cable
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Hand hygiene						
1. Washes/sanitizes hands before touching a patient	49	49.0	51	51.0	0	0.0
2. Washes/sanitizes hands when in contact between	35	35.0	65	65.0	0	0.0
<sup>2</sup> • different patients						
<b>3.</b> Washes/sanitizes hands after taking off gloves.	89	89.0	11	11.0	0	0.0
Washes hands immediately after contacting any	96	96.0	4	4.0	0	0.0
4. blood, body fluid, secretion, excretion or potentially						
contaminated materials						
<b>5.</b> Performs hand hygiene after dressing/device	89	89.0	6	6.0	5	5.0
5. removal						
Subtotal % compliance	55	55.0	45	45.0	0	0.0
Personal protective equipment's						
6. Wears gloves when drawing blood samples.	40	40.0	5	5.0	55	55.0
7. Wears gloves when disposing stool and urine.	83	83.0	0	0.0	17	17.0
<b>8.</b> Wears gloves when handling impaired patient skin.	95	95.0	0	0.0	5	5.0
9. Wears gloves when handling patients' mucosa.	79	79.0	0	0.0	21	21.0
<b>10.</b> Wears gloves when handling saliva/sputum culture.	53	53.0	0	0.0	47	47.0
<b>11.</b> Wears gloves when giving parenteral injection	88	88.0	2	2.0	10	10.0
12. Wears gloves when dressing wounds.	88	88.0	2	2.0	10	10.0
<b>13.</b> Wears gloves when cleaning blood trace.	96	96.0	1	1.0	3	3.0
14. Wears gloves when comes in contact with blood.	95	95.0	1	1.0	4	4.0
<b>15.</b> Wears gloves when performing venipuncture	80	80.0	3	3.0	17	17.0
Wears mask when performing procedures that	77	77.0	17	17.0	6	6.0
<b>16.</b> might induce spraying of blood, body fluid,						
secretions and excretions.						
Wears protective eve patch or goggle when	14	14.0	63	63.0	23	23.0
performing operations/procedures that might induce						
spraying of blood, body fluid, secretions and						
excretions.						
Wears protective suit or gown when performing	38	38.0	45	45.0	17	17.0
18. operations/procedures that might induce spraying of			_			
blood, body fluid, secretions and excretions.						
Subtotal % compliance	92	92.0	8	8.0	0	0.0
Sharps disposal	-				-	
<b>19.</b> Do not recap syringe after using.	78	78.0	21	21.0	1	1.0
<b>20.</b> Disposes needles and blades in containers that are	88	88.0	4	4.0	8	8.0
specific for that purpose	20	20.0			Ŭ	2.0
<b>21.</b> In case of workplace accidents with potentially-	0	0	0	0	100	100
contaminated sharp materials, immediately	Ŭ	Ŭ	Ŭ	Ŭ	100	
squeezes the						
affected part, disinfects it, and dresses the wound						
22.Report all risk-exposure incidents	0	0	0	0	100	100
<b>23.</b> Seal the sharps box when 3/4 full	39	39.0	49	49.0	12	12.0
	61	61.0	30	39.0	0	0.0
Subtotal % compliance Overall compliance	61	01.0	39	39.0	0	0.0

Table (3b): Frequency distribution of the studied cases according to the observed compliance with IPC practices (linen management, waste disposal and aseptic technique) (n=100)

		Compliance					
Com	pliance activity	Compliant		Non- compliant		Not applicable	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Line	n management						
1.	Wears gloves before handling soil linen?	94 69	94.0	6	6.0	0	0.0
2.	2. Folds soiled linen with contamination to inside		69.0	30	30.0	1	1.0
_•	during bed making	70	72.0	25	25.0	2	2.0
3.	Handles the linen in a way to keep it from contaminating the skin, mucous membrane or	73	73.0	25	25.0	2	2.0
5.	clothing						
	ciotining	85	85.0	14	14.0	1	1.0
4.	Managed soiled linen away from patient area.						
	otal % compliance	74	74.0	26	26.0	0	0.0
W ast	e disposal	80	80.0	20	20.0	0	0.0
5.	Discarded waste into the appropriate waste stream according to local policy?	80	80.0	20	20.0	0	0.0
-	Segregated the syringe into a leak proof, puncture-	95	95.0	2	2.0	3	3.0
6.	resistant sharps container						
7.	Segregated swabs, gauzes and other infectious	80	80.0	20	20.0	0	0.0
7.	waste into a yellow or red bin with matching bag			_		_	
8.	Performed hand hygiene immediately following	92	92.0	8	8.0	0	0.0
<ul><li>removal of personal protective equipment?</li><li>Subtotal % compliance</li></ul>		89	89.0	11	11.0	0	0.0
	f aseptic techniques	07	07.0	11	11.0	U	0.0
	Clean the trolley/tray/surface with detergent and	85	85.0	14	14.0	1	1.0
9.	water or detergent wipes and then dried?						
10.	Check the integrity of sterile packs prior to use for	65	65.0	25	25.0	10	10.0
10.	any procedure in the ward?		1.50			10	10.0
11.	Check the expiry date of sterile packs checked prior to use?	46	46.0	44	44.0	10	10.0
	Are sterile packs removed from their outer	56	56.0	36	36.0	8	8.0
12.	packaging using a non touch technique?	50	50.0	50	50.0	0	0.0
10	Are the sterile packs opened using only the corners	65	65.0	28	28.0	7	7.0
13.	of the package?						
14.	Are items arranged on the sterile field using sterile	63	63.0	32	32.0	5	5.0
	gloves?	02		_ ا	5.0	_	•
15.	Are non sterile gloves worn to remove the dressing/device?	93	93.0	5	5.0	2	2.0
	Is hand hygiene performed after dressing/device	95	95.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
16.	removal	,,,	20.0				0.0
17	If sterile gloves are worn, are they put on in a way	76	76.0	22	22.0	2	2.0
17.	that prevents contamination of the outer surface?						
	Is asepsis maintained through the procedure?	52	52.0	44	44.0	4	4.0
	Is a sterile dressing placed over the wound/site?	90	90.0	6	6.0	4	4.0
Subt	otal % compliance	55	55.0	45	45.0	0	0.0

		Overall compliance					
Social-demographic and work related characteristics		Noncompliance (n = 11)		compliance (n = 89)		χ²	<sup>мс</sup> р
		No.	%	No.	%		
Age							
20 - 29		1	9.1	12	13.5		
30 - 39		8	72.7	57	64.0	0.352	1.000
40 - 49		2	18.2	17	19.1	0.552	1.000
50+		0	0.0	3	3.4		
Education level							
Diploma		6	54.5	58	65.2		
Degree		5	45.5	30	33.7	1.385	0.566
Masters		0	0.0	1	1.1		
Years of experience							
<5 y		0	0.0	13	14.6		
5 - <10		8	72.7	42	47.2	2.653	0.455
10 - <15		2	18.2	17	19.1	2.033	0.433
15+		1	9.1	17	19.1		
Training on infection	Yes	1	9.1	23	25.8		<sup>FE</sup> p=
prevention and control practices(>6 months)	No	10	90.9	66	74.2	1.506	0.289
In the last six months,	Yes	0	0.0	3	4.1		
have you had any	103	0	0.0	5	7.1		
sharps related injury?	No	26	100.0	71	95.9		

Table (4): Relations between the studied nurses' self reported IPC practice compliance
with their social demographic and work related characteristics (no=100)

 $\chi^2$ , p:  $\chi^2$  and p values for Chi square test  ${}^{MC}p$ : p value for Monte Carlo for Chi square test  ${}^{FE}p$ : p value for Fisher Exact for Chi square test

Table (5): Comparison between the nurs	ses' self reported and the observed compliance
scores in three selected IPC domains (n =	100)

% score	Observed compliance	Self reported Compliance	t	р
Hand hygiene				
Min. – Max.	20.0 - 100.0	50.0 - 100.0	$3.682^{*}$	< 0.001*
Mean $\pm$ SD.	$72.25 \pm 22.57$	$81.40 \pm 12.39$	5.062	<0.001
Personal protective equipment's				
Min. – Max.	55.56 - 100.0	16.67 - 100.0	9.246*	< 0.001*
Mean $\pm$ SD.	$87.52 \pm 10.22$	$61.17 \pm 25.52$	9.240	<0.001
Waste disposal				
Min. – Max.	25.0 - 100.0	0.0 - 100.0	0.451	0.653
Mean $\pm$ SD.	$87.42 \pm 19.04$	$88.67 \pm 18.18$	0.431	0.035
Overall				
Min. – Max.	47.50 - 100.0	63.95 - 100.0	3.997*	< 0.001*
Mean $\pm$ SD.	$79.99 \pm 11.88$	$85.58 \pm 8.35$	5.997	<0.001

t, p: t and p values for Paired t-test for comparing between observed and self reported compliance

\*: Statistically significant at  $p \le 0.05$ 

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