The Evaluation of Universal Precaution Programs Performance at Wahidin Sudirohusodo Hospital in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Health care staffs such as nurses are at risk of acquiring infections from patients at the workplace. The knowledge and awareness of universal precautions is thus essential for all healthcare workers and people in other at risk occupations. The objective of this research was to evaluate the performance of implementation of universal precaution programs by nurses in Wahidin Sudirohusodo Hospital in Indonesia.

The research found that the performance of universal precaution program at Wahidin Sudirohusodo Hospital by nurses was high (94.4%) but the several activities in the program still low such as the nurse did not sterilizing using ethylene gas and chemical liquid (98.4%) and did not discard the needle to special garbage bin (83.9%). This research also found that there was positive relationship between leadership and supervision activities with performance of universal precaution programs by nurses.

To improve the performance of universal precaution program, the hospital managers and nurse leader should be improves their leadership and supervision activities in hospital to prevent the health care staff for infections.

Keywords: universal precaution, evaluation, performance

INTRODUCTION

Health care professionals and particularly nurses are often exposed to microorganisms, many of which can cause serious or even lethal infections. In 1996, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued the Standard Precautions, a set of guidelines to prevent exposure, but unfortunately, despite the simplicity and clarity of these guidelines, compliance among nurses is reported low. Although high incidence of occupational exposure to microorganisms is observed among all health care professionals, nurses are among those who are more highly exposed. Therefore it is ethical to explore the factors that affect nurses’ compliance with Standard Precautions.

Many researchers focused on the factors that contribute to non-compliance with Standard Precautions. Reported factors were lack of knowledge, lack of time, forgetfulness, lack of means, negative influence of the equipment on nursing skills, uncomfortable equipment, skin irritation, lack of training, conflict between the need to provide care
sharp injury may be under reported by 39.4% to 75%. Some health care workers are not seriously concerned about infection by sharp injury and forget to report accidents. Many cases of needle stick injuries go unreported and use of universal precautions is poor. The hand is the most common vehicle for microbial transmission. Hand washing has been proven as an essential and the single most effective method used in preventing the spread of infections and infectious agents. Hand washing reduces the number of potentially infectious microorganisms in the hand and decrease the incidence of infection transmission in the health care facility. Hygienic hand washing involves the use of antiseptic and / or detergents to wash the hand for as little as about 10-15 seconds or to use an alcohol based agents to disinfect the hands. Protective barriers reduce the risk of exposure of the health care workers skin or mucous membranes to potentially infectious materials and the risk of exposure to blood and other body fluids to which universal precautions apply by preventing contact with potentially pathogenic microorganisms by creating a physical barrier between the potentially infectious materials and the health care workers. Health care workers must endeavor to wear personal protective equipment to guard against blood borne pathogens if there is a reasonable anticipated exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials. If splashing is anticipated, protective eye wear should be worn along with an impervious gown or apron which provides an effective barrier to splashes. Plastic bags should be available for removal of contaminated items from the site of the spill, shoes and boots can become contaminated with blood in certain instances. The personal protective devices include gloves, apron, masks, goggles and boots.

CONCLUSION
Universal Precautions are based on the assumption that blood and other body fluids from all patients may be infectious. This system is designed to protect healthcare workers such as nurses from blood borne infectious agents (e.g. Hepatitis B Virus, Hepatitis C Virus, HIV, etc.). The transmission of diseases in health care settings can occur from patient to nurses, between patients, or from nurses to patients. The nurses should routinely use the appropriate barrier precautions to prevent skin and mucous membrane exposure during contact with any patient’s blood or bodily fluids that require universal precaution. Gloves should be used in situations where the health care worker judges that hand contamination with blood may occur. All sharp should be handled with extreme care and always washing their hand after contact with the patients. The performance of universal precaution implementation are related to organizational factors, in this research we found that to improve the performance of universal precaution program, the hospital managers and nurse leaders should be improve their leadership and supervision activities as a part of organizational factors whose have positive relationship with The performance of universal precaution implementation.

REFERENCES