ABSTRACT

Personal safety was the motivator for compliance with airborne precautions in all groups. HCWs who cited cross-transmission as the major cause for nosocomial infections were more likely to feel that these infections are preventable than those who selected invasive procedures as the primary means of transmission (p = 0.02).

MOTIVATORS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES

- Compliance with contact precautions: RNs were motivated by patient safety more than personal safety compared to other non-physician HCWs.
- Compliance with contact precautions: Resident physicians reported personal safety more than patient safety.
- Personal safety was the motivator for compliance with airborne precautions in all groups.

ETIOLOGY OF NOSOCOMIAL INFECTIONS

- 37% identified cross-transmission
- 32% identified extrinsic host factors (e.g., invasive procedures, devices)
- 31% identified intrinsic host factors (e.g., co-morbid conditions)
- Preventability of Nosocomial Infections
  - 83% felt that >40% of nosocomial infections are preventable
  - 17% reported that <40% of HAI are preventable.

SUMMARY

HCW perceptions of compliance with infection control measures are better than their actual practice.
- With the exception of RNs reporting better compliance with handwashing and contact precautions, there were no differences in compliance with infection control practices across HCWs by self report.
- Physicians perceive that their compliance with infection control measures is better than that of their peers.
- While personal safety was the principal motivator for airborne isolation regardless of hospital position, motivational differences for compliance with contact isolation was noted among different occupational categories.
  - RNs, resident physicians reported personal safety more than patient safety as a reason to practice contact precautions.
  - Compared to LPNs and PCAs, RNs were more likely to cite patient safety as the motivating factor for compliance with contact precautions.
  - RNs were also more likely to report compliance with contact isolation than LPN/PCA and other non-physician HCWs.
  - Perceived causes of nosocomial infections appeared equally distributed among cross-transmission, extrinsic host factors and intrinsic host factors.
  - The majority of respondents cited that greater than 40% of all nosocomial infections are preventable.
  - HCWs citing cross-transmission as the most likely cause for nosocomial infections were more likely to feel that these infections are preventable than those who selected invasive procedures as the primary means of transmission (p = 0.02).