

HEALTH BELIEF MODEL-BASED INTERVENTION ON KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE OF STANDARD PRECAUTIONS AMONG PRIMARY HEALTHCARE WORKERS IN A STATE OF MALAYSIA

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Abstract. Standard precautions (SP), such as hand and respiratory hygiene, use of personal protective equipment and safe injection procedure, are crucial in preventing healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and occupational infections among healthcare workers (HCWs). HAIs cause antimicrobial resistance, increase mortality and financial burden to health organizations. Health belief model (HBM)-based intervention has been developed to promote behavioral changes among HCWs. Effectiveness of an HBM-based intervention module in improving knowledge and practice of SP among HCWs was carried in a cluster randomized control trial involving 104 HCWs in control group and 94 HCWs in intervention group from eight health clinics in a state of Malaysia. Knowledge scores and practice were computed using a self-administered questionnaire at pre-, immediate post- and month 6 post-intervention. Intervention group was given a one-day intervention course while control group had received the same intervention course after study completion. There is a significant difference in knowledge and practice scores between and within groups after adjusting for covariate and cluster effect (p -value <0.050). All HBM constructs demonstrated significant improvement (p -value <0.050) between and within groups except for perceived barrier and cues to action. In conclusion, the intervention module was effective in improving knowledge and practice of SP among HCWs, and regular and periodic educational training incorporated with HBM is essential to promote behavioral changes.

Keywords: health belief model-based intervention, knowledge, standard precautions practice, healthcare worker

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