

Construction of a questionnaire that examines the reasons which influence nurses’ compliance with Standard Precautions: A focus group experience

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Purpose:

International literature indicates that health care professionals do not follow Standard Precautions for avoiding occupational exposure to pathogen microorganisms, therefore exposure is very high. Nurses are the health care workers who have the closest and longer contact with patients, putting them into great risk in acquiring an infection during their daily practice. For this reason, evaluation of the causes with standard precautions worth to be examined. The aim of this study is to present the process of the construction of a questionnaire that studies the reasons that influence nurses to comply or not with Standard Precautions. The theoretical framework under this questionnaire is the Health Belief Model.

Method:

A qualitative approach was followed in order to gather the appropriate data for the construction of the questionnaire. Four focus groups, composed only by nurses, offered through conversation the required data. Content analysis of the transcripts was used to in order to analyze data and describe the items of the questionnaire. Experts on infection control made suggestions in order to establish content validity.

Results:

A new 64-item questionnaire was constructed. Further testing is needed in order to examine its psychometric properties (validity and reliability tests)

Conclusion:

A well structured and validated questionnaire is needed to reveal reasons that may influence the compliance among nurses concerning Standard Precautions. The use of such a questionnaire will offer the opportunity to improve compliance by targeting those reasons that need improvement.