

Competency of hand hygiene among critical care nurses during COVID-19 outbreak in Hospital Pakar Sultanah Fatimah

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: During the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing and competency of the hand hygiene have been the primary means of reducing transmission. This study is to identify the relationship between knowledge, practices and attitudes of hand hygiene among critical care nurses during COVID-19 in Hospital Pakar Sultanah Fatimah (HPSF). **Methods:** A cross-sectional survey was used, a self-administered questionnaire which was adapted from WHO guidelines of hand hygiene in Health Care. Stratified random sampling methods were used, involving the 100 nurses who worked at critical care units. Data were analysed using IBM SPSS version 22. **Results:** The results showed that the participants had a good knowledge regarding the hand hygiene were 76.0% (n=76). They had a better attitude score than practice was 65.0% (n=65) and good level of practice were 83.0% (n=83). There is no significant relationship between knowledge, attitude and practice with working experience ($p>0.05$). **Conclusion:** This study gives clues for clinical practice in relation to the hand hygiene during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results of the current study showed that there was a further need to focus on the practices of hand hygiene by continuous education for all nurses. Chain of infection is a vicious circle that repeats itself, thus it is very important to break this chain by hand hygiene.