



This study assessed reporting behavior and satisfaction with postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) systems among health care workers (HCWs) at risk for occupational bloodborne pathogen exposure (BPE) in 3 public hospitals in Botswana” Kassa et al (2016).

Abstract:

Background: This study assessed reporting behavior and satisfaction with postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) systems among health care workers (HCWs) at risk for occupational bloodborne pathogen exposure (BPE) in 3 public hospitals in Botswana.

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Methods: A cross-sectional survey among HCWs provided information on perceptions, attitudes, and experiences with occupational exposures, reporting, and postexposure care. HCWs potentially in contact with blood or body fluids were surveyed using audio computer-assisted self-interview.

Results: Between August 2012 and April 2013, 1,624 HCWs completed the survey; most were women (72%), and almost half (48%) were nurses. Sixty-seven percent of them had ever received training related to BPE management; 62% perceived themselves to be at high risk

for BPE. Among the 426 HCWs who were exposed to sharps injuries or splashes in the last 6 months, 160 (37%) reported the exposure. Of these, 111 of the 160 (69%) received PEP, and 79 of the 111 (71%) completed their medication. Whereas >92% of the total HCWs had ever been tested for HIV, only 557 (37%) were tested in their own health facility. Most HCWs (87%, n = 1,406) reported they would be interested in testing themselves. Of HCWs who reported an exposure, less than half (49%, n = 78) were satisfied with existing reporting systems.

Conclusions: Underreporting of occupational exposures and dissatisfaction with PEP management is common among HCWs. Improved PEP management strategies and regular monitoring are needed.

Reference:

Kassa, G., Selenic, D., Lahuerta, M., Gaolathe, T., Liu, Y., Letang, G., Courtenay-Quirk, C., Mwaniki, N.K., Gaolekwe, S. and Bock, N. (2016) Occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens among health care workers in Botswana: Reporting and utilization of postexposure prophylaxis. American Journal of Infection Control. March 24th. .

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