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ACCEPTED ABSTRACTS

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### Jordanian paediatric nurses' views on compliance with standard precautions: A qualitative study

**Murad Adnan Sawalha**

Hashemite University, Jordan

**Introduction:** Compliance with Standard Precautions Guidelines (SPG) is effective in preventing the transmission of Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAI), paediatric nurses do not always compliant. Most studies into this problem used quantitative methods, but have failed to explain noncompliant behavior or address the issues that are specific to paediatric clinical areas.

**Aim:** To investigate how the

experience of nursing children, affected nurses' decision-making regarding SPG compliance.

**Methods:** Qualitative study with an adapted form of constructivist grounded theory. It was conducted in five Jordanian Hospitals with a sample of 31 qualified paediatric nurses.

**Results:** This study identified causes of enduring failure by nurses to comply fully with SPG. Four themes emerged (Children are different; Nurses are human first; Limited professional status; The challenges of the working environment). Paediatric nursing practice was seen as different from adult practice and nurses construed the need for SPG differently.

**Discussion:** Paediatric nurses were reluctant to be proactive

and initiate change to improve practice. Problems with SPG were understood but not acted on. Nurse's prioritized compliance with the nursing culture in their clinical area, over more general SPG principles. Nurses did appreciate that compliance with SPG was suboptimal and criticized this. However, most nurses had a value system, which militated against, and diminished the influence of SPG compliance.

**Implication:** Unless nurses become empowered to challenge practices and organizational barriers, infection prevention and control is unlikely to improve. Nursing, in this area of the world, needs to professionalize so nurses take responsibility for their actions.

*murad\_80@yahoo.com*