

supportive leadership, and a deep understanding of organizational culture. The inherent alignment of IPC strategies with NPT and DOI theories suggests the potential of these frameworks in guiding IPC implementation. The research advocates for the integration of these theoretical perspectives into formal training programs to enhance the effectiveness of IPC measures in healthcare settings.

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Poster Presentation - Poster Presentation

Subject Category: Infection Control

Presenteeism Among Healthcare Professionals (HCP) During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Survey of Perceived Barriers

Katherine Dolan, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health; Rachel Meyer, University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics; Laura Anderson, UW Health; Dan Shirley, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health; Michael Kessler, UW Madison School of Medicine and Public Health; Linda Stevens, UW Health and Nasia Safdar, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Background: Presenteeism when ill in healthcare personnel (HCP) can contribute to the spread of respiratory illness among HCP and patients. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic and now, there are substantial challenges preventing HCP from staying home when ill. We examined these challenges using the Systems Engineering Initiative for Patient Safety (SEIPS) framework. **Method:** As part of a larger anonymous electronic survey between 3/11/2022 and 4/12/2022 at an academic tertiary referral center, in inpatient and ambulatory settings where respondents were asked to describe factors impacting presenteeism when ill, we analyzed free-text responses using the SEIPS categories of tasks, tools/technology, person, organization, and physical environment. **Result:** 522 comments were received in response to the open-ended survey question asking individuals to describe any factors that would assist them in remaining home and/or help them get tested for COVID-19 when they have symptoms of a respiratory illness; 21 were excluded due to absent or incomplete response. Of the remaining responses (N = 501, Figure 1), 82% were associated with a single SEIPS component such as organization (N = 409), while other responses discussed factors that involved two SEIPS components, in no particular order (N = 92). A majority of the responses (N = 324, 55%) reported organizational barriers, frequently citing a strict sick call-in policy as well as a lack of protected time-off for COVID-19 testing or related absences. The next two most commonly identified components were physical environment (N= 88, 15%) and tasks (N = 72, 12%), mentioning barriers such as far distances to testing centers and prolonged waiting periods for testing. **Results:** The person and tools/technology components were less commonly identified, with a frequency of 9% each. **Conclusion:** A number of systems level factors were identified that may impact the ability of HCP to stay home when ill. Interventions to help overcome HCP perceived barriers to staying home when experiencing respiratory symptoms should focus on the policies and practices within an organization. Communication from leadership should support staying

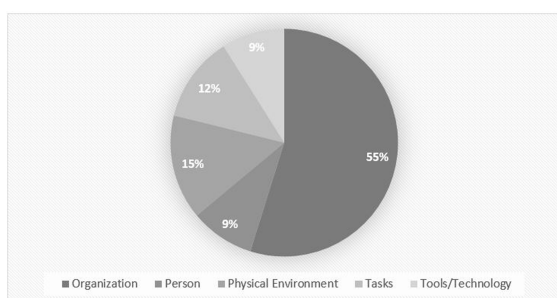


Figure 1: Pie Chart showing the frequency of each SEIPS component identified in the survey responses

home with respiratory symptoms by creating plans for coverage and back up consistently across all employee types in direct care.

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Evaluation of Vulnerabilities for the Spread of Carbapenem Resistant Organisms at Five Hospitals in India

Susan Fallon, Johns Hopkins Hospital; Umang Agrawal, PD Hinduja Hospital; Shaoli Basu, P.D. Hinduja Hospital and MRC; Valeria Fabre, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; Sarah Fisseha, Johns Hopkins Hospital; Johns Hopkins Hospital, Johns Hopkins Hospital; Arjunlal Kakrani, Dr D Y Patil Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre; Rajesh Karyakarte, BJ Government Medical College and Sassoon Hospital, Pune; Mahadevan Kumar, Bharati Vidyapeeth Medical College; Abhijeet Mane, Bharati Vidyapeeth (DTU) Medical College and Hospital; Vidya Mave, Medicine, Johns Hopkins University; Yatin Mehta, Medanta The Medicity; SHAHZAD MIRZA, Dr D Y Patil Medical College Hospital And Research Centre, Dr D Y Patil Vidyapeeth, Pimpri, Pune; Akaash Patel, Johns Hopkins Hospital; Bharat Randive, Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Government Medical College-Johns Hopkins University Clinical Research Site, Pune, India; Prachala Rathod, BJGMC and Sassoon Hospital Pune; Matthew Robinson, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine; Camilla Rodrigues, Hinduja Hospital, Mumbai; Smita Sarma, Medanta - The Medicity; Jignesh Shah, Bharati Vidyapeeth University Medical College Pune; Patricia Shimmer, Johns Hopkins University; SWEETY SINGH, Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Government Medical College-Johns Hopkins University Clinical Research Site, Pune, India and Melanie Curless, Johns Hopkins Hospital

Background: The 2022 WHO global survey on infection prevention and control (IPC) exposes significant gaps in IPC in the WHO Southeast Asia region. A better understanding of IPC vulnerabilities will inform improvement initiatives. We describe an evaluation of IPC practices known to prevent and contain carbapenem-resistant organisms (CROs) at hospitals participating in the United States Centers for Disease Control Global Action in Healthcare Network -Antimicrobial Resistance in India. Prior hospital evaluations suggest resistance to carbapenems among gram-negative isolates is up to 45%. **Methods:** We conducted a mixed methods evaluation including cross-sectional surveys, semi-structured interviews, and site observations at five hospitals (one government, two private tertiary care, and two private teaching) located in three cities. The number of hospital beds ranged from 362 to 2,011. Hospital and IPC program characteristics, and CRO prevention and containment activities were examined virtually. Site observations focused on hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, personal protective equipment (PPE), CRO containment practices and use of water for patient care. **Results:** All sites had IPC programs with established policies and qualified IPC staff. The IPC nurse-to-bed ratio ranged from 1:73 to 1:432 (mean, 1:209). Due to the integral role of microbiology staff in IPC at these hospitals, the two departments had strong communication channels associated with CRO identification. Screening for CRO colonization, if done, targeted patients from outside hospitals. Three of the five hospitals routinely implemented contact precautions for patients with identified CROs, displayed isolation signage at the bedside, and provided adequate PPE at point-of-use; however, all sites reported barriers to effective isolation and/or cohorting patients with CROs. Timely communication of CROs to clinical staff varied and no sites effectively relayed CRO status upon patient discharge to another facility. IPC teams identified gaps in environmental cleaning procedures and practices related to medical devices and equipment. All sites used alternatives to tap water for clinical care and sink etiquette was evident. Each IPC team performed audits of patient isolation and hand hygiene practices. Despite