

ABSTRACT

Knowledge and Attitudes of Nurses at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) Jamaica towards Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Hosea Richard Jr. Jomo Cumberbatch

Nurses are often at the frontline when patients require CPR. Nurses initiate CPR then alert doctors to the dire status of the patient. The action of the nurse therefore weighs on outcome. This single centre, cross-sectional, questionnaire-based study investigated the knowledge and attitudes of nurses at UHWI towards CPR. Knowledge of the nurses of CPR guidelines was found to be relatively low and was not related to their speciality or level. The nurses' attitudes towards performing CPR and CPR guidelines were related to their age ($p < 0.01$) and length of time employed ($p < 0.01$). There was a significant difference between the nurses based on their speciality on their attitudes towards performing CPR and the CPR guidelines ($p < 0.0001$) but no significant difference in knowledge scores by speciality and level. It was not proven that being BLS certified improved the knowledge of CPR guidelines. No correlation was found between total knowledge and recent performance of CPR.

Keywords: nurses, University Hospital of the West Indies, UHWI, Jamaica, knowledge, attitudes, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, CPR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To my Heavenly Father who has guided and brought me thus far

Thanks to my anaesthesia mommy, Dr. Hyacinth Harding, your guidance was given with much authority and love

Thanks to my supervisor Dr. Clarence McGaw.

To Dr. Camille Alexis-Garsee, your timely input, expertise and assistance were invaluable.

Thanks to Mr. Gavin Walters for your help

To all the members of my anaesthesia family, thank you

To all the nurses at the UHWI who took time out of your demanding schedules to participate in this study

To my family in St. Vincent and Trinidad

To my wife and my son, for all the prayers, kisses and support.

