

# Knowledge and acceptance of pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV among health care workers in Hospital Sungai Buloh

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) effectively reduces the risk of sexual HIV acquisition. Healthcare workers' (HCWs) knowledge and acceptance of PrEP are crucial for its successful implementation. This study conducted at Hospital Sungai Buloh assessed HCWs' knowledge, acceptance, and related factors, as well as the relationship between their knowledge and acceptance of PrEP. **Materials and Methods:** A cross-sectional study at Hospital Sungai Buloh surveyed 2,622 healthcare personnel via email and WhatsApp. A validated, bilingual questionnaire adapted from McCormack et al. (2016) was used, comprising five sections: 'Participant's Information Sheet,' 'Informed Consent,' 'Socio-Demographics,' 'HCWs' Comprehension of PrEP, and 'HCWs' Acceptance of PrEP. **Results:** A total of 378 healthcare workers (HCWs) participated, primarily from medical areas (66.67%), with nurses comprising the majority (66.40%). Female respondents dominated (83.07%), and the largest age group was 31 to 40 years (56.09%). HCWs' knowledge of PrEP was moderate, with 50.27% rating their knowledge as moderate and 46.03% as low. A significant number (84.66%) lacked sufficient knowledge for informed patient discussions. Despite this, most participants agreed on PrEP's effectiveness (91.80%) and safety (93.12%). Acceptance of PrEP was significantly influenced by personal beliefs ( $\chi^2= 13.594$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), with a statistically significant connection (aOR= 2.695,  $p = 0.006$ , CI 0.288 to 1.694). **Conclusion:** The research emphasized the significant impact of personal beliefs on attitudes toward PrEP. Healthcare workers showed moderate knowledge, indicating a need for targeted educational initiatives. Acceptance of PrEP was largely unaffected by gender, age, or experience but was strongly influenced by personal beliefs. Tailored interventions addressing individual attitudes are essential for effective PrEP implementation.