

# CLINICAL EXPERIENCES OF STANDARD PRECAUTIONS AMONG NURSING STUDENTS :BASED ON THE THEORY OF PLANNED BEHAVIOR

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## BACKGROUND

- Healthcare associated infections (HAIs) are a concern for healthcare workers (HCWs) as well as their patients. In addition, nursing students in long-term clinical placements may find themselves in close contact with patients and providing nursing interventions, which may lead to exposure to harmful pathogens.
- The Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB), developed by Icek Ajzen is widely used as a theoretical framework in behavioral studies and has successfully explained a variety of human behaviors and their determinants.

## PURPOSE

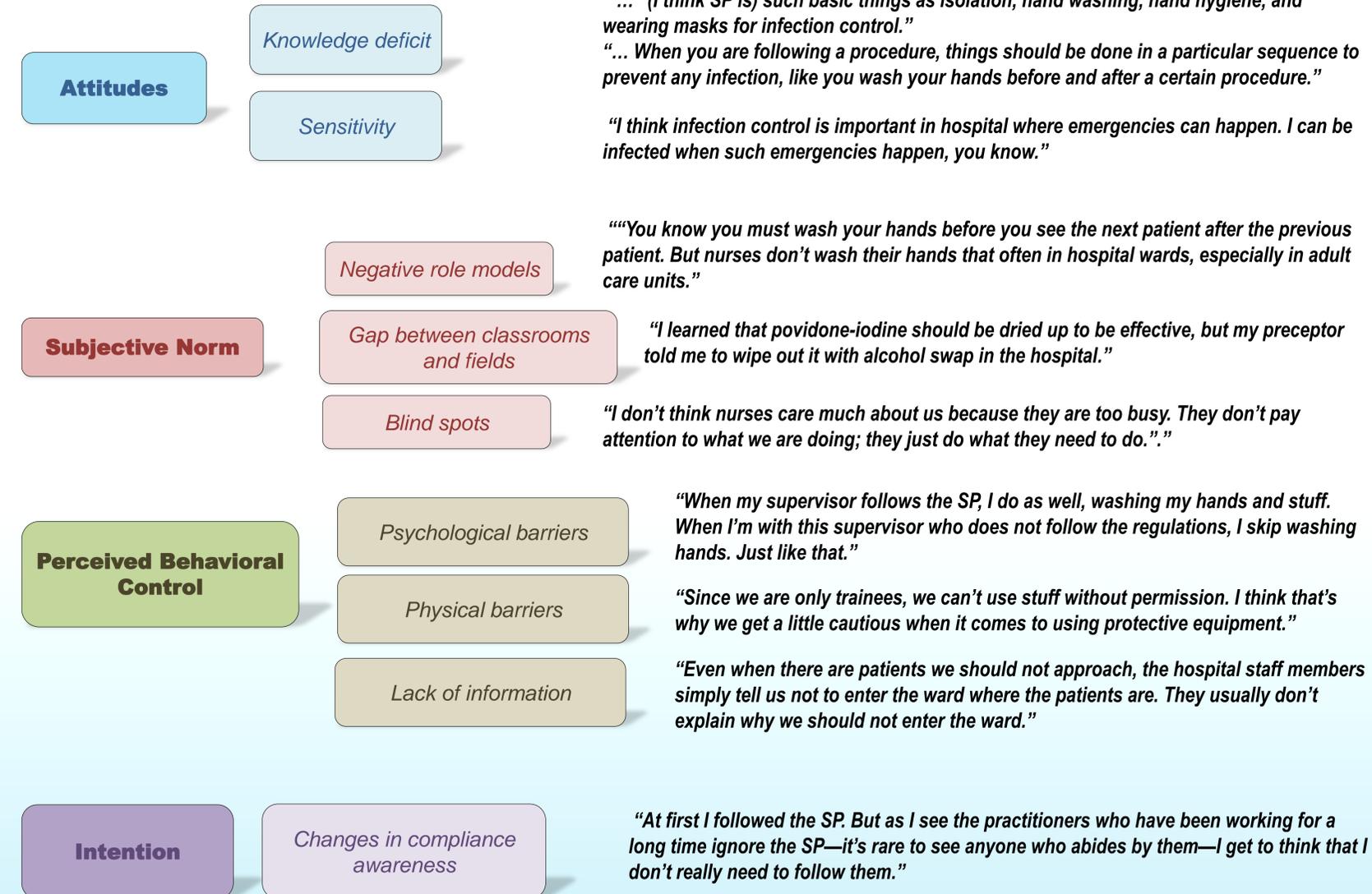
- The purpose of study is to explore clinical experiences of Standard Precaution compliance, using the Theory of Planned Behaviour among nursing students in clinical practice settings in South Korea.

## METHOD

### Focus group interview

- We conducted interviews with 6 focus groups of nursing students from two South Korean universities.
- A total of 38 senior nursing students were broken into 6 different focus groups and interviewed.
- All students had finished one year of clinical experience in tertiary hospitals in South Korea.
- The focus groups were all homogenous with respect to grade and clinical settings experience.
- The research team created a structured interview guide for this study and utilized the theoretical frameworks of TPB to guide the focus group interviews.
- Thematic content analysis was used to code and analyze the data from the focus group interviews.

## FINDINGS



## DISCUSSION

- Interestingly enough, this study found that the general vulnerability of nursing students at their clinical sites and their reliance on mentors for information and guidance led to strikingly different compliance experiences than those reported by HCWs.
- Nursing students are the nurses of the future, so compliance education and a student's intention to follow compliance are directly related to a nurse's commitment to compliance.
- Study participants confessed that their awareness and intention changed during clinical training.
- Specifically, they felt that they did not need to follow SP compliance since nurses did not. This cognitive shift could influence their future SP compliance as nurses.
- Therefore, exploring the factors affecting SP compliance for nurses in charge of student clinical education is needed.
- In addition, faculty should develop continuing education programs that include discussions on SP compliance, infection control guidelines, and noncompliance cases, then reinforce the SP compliance education component before clinical placements begin.
- These steps would be helpful in preventing cognitive changes in the importance of SP compliance.

## CONCLUSION

- In this study, we discovered that nursing students found themselves in vulnerable situations and risked exposure to pathogens due to SP noncompliance.
- Several barriers were explored as the reasons of SP noncompliance.
- By removing the barriers presented in this study, students would be able to follow SP compliance and do their clinical training in a safe environment.