



# Research Week 2020

## Barriers to Maintaining Standard Precautions Compliance among Healthcare Workers

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### Keywords

Infection control, occupational health, environmental health, public health

### Abstract

Despite guidelines set by OSHA and CDC as well as literature showing the benefits of high standard precautions (SP) compliance, adherence with SP remains low (Gammon & Gould, 2005; Harris et al, 2017; Reddy et al., 2009). This paper evaluates current literature relating to the barriers associated with poor SP compliance with among health care workers (HCW), as well as a couple current strategies implemented to improve compliance rates. Two databases were searched, including PubMed and Google Scholar. The following search terms were used in each database: (Standard Precautions OR Universal Precautions) AND compliance AND United States AND (interventions OR barriers). The searches ranged from 27 to 17,000. Of these, 5 fit the inclusion criteria and were included in the literature review. Much of the literature focuses on individual behavior, knowledge and lack of training. While these are important factors to consider and find solutions to, it is suggested that more studies and intervention strategies focus on factors outside of the individual HCWs control, such as management support, workplace environment and safety climate of the unit. By creating multifaceted SP interventions that target multiple levels of the hierarchy of controls, proposed by the Total Worker Health (TWH) framework, overall compliance with SP will increase and ensure that compliance can be sustained over time.