

Factors influencing Facial Protective Equipment (FPE) adherence amongst home care Nurses, Personal Support Workers, and Rehabilitation providers

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The Issue:

- FPE adherence rates have varied historically among healthcare workers
- Existing literature has highlighted factors influencing FPE adherence in institutional settings
- Few studies have focused on home care providers, rehabilitation providers, or PSWs.

Study Objective:

Explore factors associated with FPE adherence in home care:

Study 1: Amongst Nurses and PSWs

Study 2: Amongst Rehab providers

Methods:

- **Distributed** a home care adapted version of an existing questionnaire among Nurses and PSWs at three not-for-profit home care organizations from May 31 - June 20, 2022 (Study 1)
- **Distributed** a Rehab-specific version of the home care adapted questionnaire among Rehab providers at two not-for-profit home care organizations from January 11 - January 24, 2023 (Study 2)
- **Analyzed** responses using descriptive and multivariable methods to assess factors influencing FPE adherence

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Results:

Study 1: Nurses (n=322) and PSWs (n=786) were 64% adherent to FPE.

Significant modifiable factors – High knowledge of FPE use, high availability and convenience of FPE and high organizational support for health and safety were associated with higher adherence while experiencing negative mental health effects from exposure was associated with lower adherence.

Study 2: Rehab providers (n=124) were 77% and 53% adherent to respiratory and eye protection, respectively.

Significant modifiable factors – Lower respiratory protection adherence was associated with experiencing negative mental health effects from exposure. Lower eye protection adherence was associated with using goggles, working 36+ hours/week, and lower perceived efficacy of FPE.

Qualitative themes: Ease of access; Appropriateness of FPE; and Information sharing/training

Opportunities to improve adherence:

- Different factors were associated with adherence for different provider groups, requiring discipline-specific strategies to promote adherence.
- Across both provider groups, **managing mental health impacts** and **ensuring access to FPE** may improve adherence
- Among Nurses & PSWs, **reinforcing knowledge of FPE and strengthening organizational support for health and safety**
- Among Rehab providers, **providing education that reinforces the efficacy of FPE**