

Table 2 Knowledge of universal precautions (UP) among health care workers (HCWs) and medical students in Mazandaran Province

Item	% answering correctly		
	HCWs hospital A (n = 283)	HCWs hospital B (n = 173)	Students (n = 84)
Have you ever heard of UP? ^a	65.8	90.0	53.5
UP are applied to patients with HIV and HBV only (F)	87.9	86.3	96.3
UP should be applied to all persons regardless of their infection status (T)	92.6	94.3	90.9
Isolation is necessary for patients with blood-borne infections (F)	53.7	77.4	81.8
Used needles can be recapped after giving an injection (F)	89.9	90.7	58.1
For decontamination of devices such as manometer (with only contact with skin) washing with usual detergent is enough (T)	48.4	85.6	87.2
Subcutaneous injuries during intravenous injections are the most common cause of occupational infections (T)	78.4	92.8	72.7
Universal precautions are not necessary in situations that might lead to contact with saliva (T)	79.0	76.8	81.8
There is effective anti-HCV vaccine (F)	77.9	88.5	100.0
HCWs with non-intact skin should not be involved in direct patient care until the condition resolves (T)	55.8	77.4	32.7
Blood spills should be cleaned up promptly with sodium hypochlorite (T)	70.8	93.9	80.0

^a% who heard of UP.

n = total number of respondents.

T = true, F = false (researchers' views).

HCV = hepatitis C virus; HIV = human immunodeficiency virus.