

## Attitude on COVID-19 among Health Care Workers in Selected Hospitals in Sri Lanka

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Healthcare workers (HCWs) are front-line workers who come in direct contact with the patients and put themselves at risk of being exposed. A positive attitude towards COVID-19 safeguards HCWs and delivers better care for COVID-19 patients. The objective was to assess the attitudes on COVID-19 among HCW in Sri Lanka. A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted from June to September 2020. Data was collected from doctors and nurses using a self-administered questionnaire in 12 different hospitals (COVID treatment centres, isolations centres, and others). There were 15 attitude questions on a five-point Likert scale. A mean score of  $\geq 46$  from summed marks for each question was considered as a cut-off. Data analysis was performed using SPSS 21 version a. There were 651 (90.1%) respondents [doctors 311(48%) nurses 340(52%), females (n=433; 66.5%). About 46.2%, 48.3%, and 46.1% participants were worried that they would be exposed to COVID-19 infection, they would be infected with COVID-19 if exposed, and they were not adequately protected even when wearing masks respectively. Eighty-four percent of participants disagreed that COVID-19 patients should be provided with minimal care and 51.5% were not worried about treating them. More than half were worried about being quarantined following exposure to a COVID-19 patient. Being a doctor (OR=1.1; 95%CI: 1.007-1.3) is associated with a positive attitude. Although 50% of participants showed a satisfactory attitude toward the COVID-19, it is important to develop a positive attitude among all HCWs in view of mitigating the pandemic.

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