

# Audit on knowledge about PPE and correct 'donning and doffing' of PPE

**Authors:** Saurabh Bahl,<sup>A</sup> Alan Cross<sup>A</sup> and Ruchit Patel<sup>A</sup>

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## Introduction

SARS-CoV-2 has spread globally and was declared a pandemic on 11 March 2020 by the World Health Organization (WHO). The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is by being well informed about the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the disease it causes (COVID-19) and how it spreads.

## Aim

The aim of this audit was to ascertain whether community mental health staff across all disciplines in the early intervention psychosis team and community mental health team (CMHT) understand and can apply the correct techniques and order of items when donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE). We also tried to ascertain understanding regarding use of PPE in common scenarios likely to be encountered by community mental health staff.

## Methods

We carried out a prospective audit with a help of a questionnaire and tried to ascertain current level of knowledge and understanding with regards to correct use of PPE among the community mental health staff. The standards used were local standards that 100% of staff should have understanding about correct use of PPE. Based on initial results, interventions were applied to increase this level of knowledge amongst staff. Interventions included a teaching session, placement on posters around the building and circulation of an email containing information on PPE use among staff. A further re-audit was done to check if the interventions have been successful and to identify gaps in knowledge.

## Result

No one answered correctly regarding correct donning and doffing sequence of PPE. This increased to 50% and 36%, respectively, following the interventions. Knowledge about correct items of PPE in settings of ward and home increased by 50% following the interventions. Staff were also asked about the duration for which a surgical mask could be worn, and this increased from 5% to 85%

following the interventions after the 1st cycle of audit. Knowledge about correct items of PPE during cardiopulmonary resuscitation increased from 10% to 64% following the interventions. Only 26% of staff had answered correctly on what was allowed to be worn within the NHS 'bare below elbow' policy which increased to 85% following the interventions.

## Conclusion

Knowledge about correct use of PPE is essential to prevent spread of infection among the patients and staff. Local teaching sessions and PPE posters at major locations can improve knowledge about correct use of PPE among staff. ■

## Conflicts of interest

None declared.

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**Author:** <sup>A</sup>Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK