

# Perceptions and Knowledge of Albanian Nurses about Mandatory and Recommended Vaccinations for Healthcare Workers in Albania

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## Abstract

**Background:** Vaccines represent the most cost effective and simple intervention to protect against deleterious epidemics. The health care staff, especially nurses are the forefront medical professional to meet hundreds of patients in a day and should be vaccinated in order to prevent the diffusion of vaccine preventable diseases. Their information about vaccination is important to increase public awareness about the importance of vaccination.

**Aims:** The main objective of this study was to investigate the extent of Albanian nurses' knowledge, perception and practices in relation to the issue of mandatory and voluntary vaccinations and observe the extent to which the administration of vaccines is recommended in a clinical context. Secondary objectives were to evaluate the adherence of nurses to optional vaccinations.

**Study Design:** Descriptive qualitative study

**Methods:** A cohort study was conducted in nine vaccine centers in Tirana, selecting a voluntary sample of 41 nurses. To collect data, we used paper-based questionnaire, standardized by the Higher Institute of Health, HProImmune (Promotion of Immunization for Health

validated in Albanian language. Further socio-demographic data were collected to complete the survey. Data were analysed through a descriptive statistic method.

**Results:** 96% of the interviewed nurses are aware of the fact that vaccinations are an important tool for the prevention and protection against serious diseases and they consider vaccination a prerequisite for working in health care. On the other hand, there is little awareness about which vaccines should be recommended to the population.

**Conclusion:** Although a positive perception about the vaccination practice is deduced, the interviewed nurses affirm that they do not intend to get vaccinated for some non-mandatory vaccines. This study shows a theoretical awareness on vaccinations that does not correspond to a concrete vaccination in practice. Government institutions should implement more campaigns to raise awareness of vaccination coverage and training courses for all those healthcare professionals who deal with vaccines every day.

**Key words:** Nurses, Vaccination, Health promotion, Education.