

# Attitudes and practices towards truth telling in KHUH

## Abstract:

**Introduction:** Ethical dilemmas routinely arise in the hospital and outpatient practice settings. This is especially true in Middle Eastern communities, where health care practitioners often must deal with an unceasing moral conflict which is characteristic of the region's conservative cultural and societal values.

**Methods:** Descriptive cross-sectional study that assesses physicians' attitudes and practices towards truth-telling to patients with serious illnesses utilizing a self-administered survey in King Hamad University Hospital (KHUH) The sample for this study consists of a random sample of 156 residents and specialist physicians practicing at KHUH.

**Results:** The study population consisted of 113 physicians out of 156 (response rate 72%) 34.5% were females. Bahraini participants made up 33.6% of the population while Non-Bahrainis consisted of 66.4%. Around half of participants implement an "*always tell*" policy whereas about one-third of them implement an "*often tell*" policy. 5% and 3% reported a "*rarely tell*" or "*never tell*" policy respectively. One-third of the physicians weren't aware of the hospital's disclosure policy. There is no association between the sociodemographic variables and the disclosure policies

**Conclusion:** The study elucidated the disparity between physician's practices and their policy without any correlation to their sociodemographic. Physicians' preference towards knowing their own diagnosis if they were patients themselves, despite some stating they would not disclose the diagnosis of their patients, and the startling finding of physician's