

Trish M. Perl, MD, MSc

"Respiratory protection in healthcare workers: lessons from the trenches—the ResPECT Study"

The ResPECT study is a cluster randomized clinical trial comparing the effectiveness of respiratory protection in healthcare personnel (HCP). The incidence of influenza like illness (ILI), influenza and other respiratory diseases are compared among HCP who wear medical masks and fit tested N95 respirators in high risk outpatient settings. Close to 100 clusters (clinic settings) from the Baltimore Washington (Johns Hopkins University and Washington VA), New York (Manhattan VA), Denver (Denver Health, Denver Children's, Denver VA) and Houston (Houston VA) provide data. While the study is ongoing; in year 2 of 4; with over 1600 HCP observations preliminary information about respiratory illness and the etiology, compliance can formulate recommendations for further studies and inform decisions that policy makers are tackling. We will provide a review of the study to date; preliminary data about the distribution of respiratory viruses and compliance.