

Prevention and control of nosocomial infection is an important and necessary for decreasing the problem of nosocomial infections. This descriptive research aimed to examine the practices of nosocomial infection prevention and control as well as problems and support needs to nosocomial infection prevention and control of both regional and general hospitals. The participants were 72 chairpersons of infection control committee, 120 infection control nurses, and 75 infection control ward nurses, so altogether were 276 persons. Data were collected during April to June, 2002. The instruments were self-administered questionnaires for three groups of participants that were validated by the experts and tested for reliability by using the Pearson's product moment correlation ($r = 0.95$). Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Findings of this study revealed that the majority of both regional and general hospitals had performed the activities according to the nursing standard of nosocomial infection prevention and control. That is the structure and administration of the six standards had been performed between 76.46 to 95.24 percent. The highest performance was organization and administration, followed by the process of implementation on nosocomial infection prevention and control, the quality development, and the standard of procedure were performed respectively. The standard had been performed lower than 80.00 percent as the team of infection control nurse and information systems. The process and practices of infection control nurse of five standards had been performed between 80.50 to 89.69 percent. The performance practiced most was nursing and management, followed by the nosocomial infection surveillance, education and consultation, and evaluation of practice. The performance least practiced was research.

The major problems and obstacles of nosocomial infection prevention and control about the structure and administration were limitation of budget, workload infection control nurses as a result of multiple responsibilities, and insufficiency of medical equipments. The process and practices of infection control nurse were the lack of co-operation surveillance of ward nurses and the doctors. The needs for supporting nosocomial infection prevention and control include the provision for budget, criteria standard member of full time infection control nurse, and necessary medical equipments.

The findings indicated that all regional and general hospitals should focus on practice of prevention and control of nosocomial infection seriously through a support in terms of personnel, equipments, and budget. Further, the specific positions of infection control nurse is necessary to set up.