

Thesis Title	Information and Support Needs of Mothers of Premature Infants	
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Abstract

The purpose of this qualitative study was to determine the information and support needs of mothers of premature infants after discharge from Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital. Key informants were twelve mothers who had the first premature infant and their gestational age was less than 36 weeks. Data were collected through in-depth interviews and non-structured observation during home visits after the infants were discharged from the hospital until they were 4-6 months old. The investigator audio-tape recorded all interviews to enhance the accuracy of the data and kept field notes documenting non-verbal responses and observations. The data analysis consisted of five steps: establishing files; coding the data; categorising or grouping text unit; developing themes; refining emerging themes and propositions. The results of this study revealed that:

1. The information needs of mothers of premature infants were:

1.1 Information need regarding breast-feeding and bottle feeding including how to breastfeed and bottle-feed the infant; kind of milk formula; preparation of milk formula; amount of

milk formula given each feeding; time interval between each feeding; how to increase the amount of milk formula when the infant grows up; sucking pattern of the infant and response of the infant when filled up and infant spitting.

1.2 Information need regarding supplementary food.

1.3 Information need regarding infant sleep-wake patterns.

1.4 Information need regarding infant cry.

1.5 Information need regarding infant health problems including inguinal and umbilical hernias; retinopathy of prematurity; respiratory problems; gastrointestinal problems; fever and how to take the infant's temperature; thrush; diaper rashes and how to prevent the infant from being ill when taking the infant outside home.

1.6 Information need regarding immunizations.

1.7 Information need regarding advantages or necessity of visiting to High-risk Follow-up Clinic.

1.8 Information need regarding medications including kinds of medicine; how to store medicine; how to give medicine to infant; the amount of medicine given to the infant; requirement of vitamin supplement; the necessity of giving full dose of antibiotic and expiry date of antibiotic.

1.9 Information need regarding growth and development including normal weight gain and normal developmental patterns of infant; how to promote the infant's development and its advantages.

1.10 Information need and practice regarding bathing, postural drainage and suctioning.

1.11 Information need regarding how to manage with the problem of sibling rivalry.

1.12 Information need regarding self-care of the mother including post-partum care; family planning and how to prevent premature labor.

Information needs identified by these mothers centered on specific care needs related to the remainder health problems of the infant, child rearing problems and mother's self-care problems.

2. All of the mothers of premature infants needed two types of support included emotional and material support. For emotional support, the mothers needed support from husband, mother's mother, health professionals, neighbour and other relatives. All of the mothers of premature infants needs similar support.