

### Abstract

Mothers of newborns who become critically ill and are admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) have a high level of stress. They have to adapt themselves and need many things which require appropriate responses from hospital personnel. The purpose of this study was to determine the needs and received responses among mothers of newborns admitted in NICU at Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital and Nakornping Hospital during February to April, 2001. Data were collected by using an interview form consisting of 4 parts; needs of mental support, need of information, needs to perform a maternal role, and personal need. The content validity of this instrument was approved by 3 experts and the content validity index score was .80. Reliability was obtained by means of KR-20 and was .76 for mother's needs and .80 for received response. Data were analyzed by using frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation.

The results of this study showed that over eighthly percent of mothers of newborns needed mental support, information, perform a maternal role, and had personal needs. But the mothers received responses that were less than their needs in all items. The lowest received responses were for need to perform maternal role.

The findings of this study suggested that nurses in NICU should be aware of the needs of mothers of newborns and give appropriate responses.