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Role performance of professional nurses in community hospitals needs development. Nurses have no role performance assessment to develop their jobs completely. This explanatory research was to assess role performance and its relationships to leader behavior, teamwork and job satisfaction of professional nurses in community hospitals. The data was collected from 175 professional nurses in 8 community hospitals, in Nakornpathom Province by using questionnaires in January 1998.

The results revealed the following : professional nurses were an average age of 33.3 years, married (58.3%), held Bachelor's degree (91.4%) and held a tenure duration of 7.6 years. The overall role performance was found to be at a high level (46.3%). Administrative, service and academic aspects were found to be at moderate (43.4%), high (70.9%) and low levels (45.1%), respectively. The overall leader behavior, teamwork and job satisfaction were found to be at moderate levels (70.3% , 53.1% and 68.0% respectively), too. The role performance had a significant relationship with leader behavior, teamwork and job satisfaction ( $P = 0.000$ ). With respect to the result of multivariate regression analysis, teamwork and leader behavior were reliable factors for role performance with a predictive capacity of 47.9 percent. The research suggests that hospitals should have a policy to promote teamwork by more group action in the hospital and more supporting of leader behavior by assigning professional nurses to be leaders of small groups for role performance improvement.