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KEY WORDS : ELDERLY PATIENTS / FUNCTIONAL STATUS / CAREGIVING  
AT HOME

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ELDERLY PATIENTS AND FAMILIES MANAGEMENT REGARDING CAREGIVING AT  
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(NURSING ADMINISTRATION), D.S.N. 94 p. ISBN 974-663-236-1

The purpose of this descriptive research was 1) to study functional status of hospitalized elderly patients and 2) to study families management regarding caregiving at home. Miller's functional consequences theory was used as a conceptual framework for this study. A convenience sample consisted of 60 hospitalized elderly patients who admitted in general medical ward at Ramathibodi Hospital and 60 family caregivers. The instruments used in this study were: the demographic questionnaire, the Barthel index for physical functioning, and semi-structure questionnaire of family management.

The result of the study indicated that functional status of the hospitalized elderly patients prior to admission, the first two day in hospital, and before discharge were statistically significant difference ( $p < .05$ ). Family management regarding care giving at home included: 1) preparation for the one who will be a primary caregiver, 2) development of knowledge and skill needed for caring, and 3) arrangement of household environment. The findings provide essential information for preparation of the hospitalized elderly patients and family caregivers.