

## ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to develop a clinical nursing practice guideline for empowerment of stroke caregivers based on the conceptual framework of IOWA research utilization. (IOWA, 2001) The guideline development composed of analyzing causes of the problems from nursing work experience, relevant knowledge and by observing stroke caregivers providing care on the routine basis together with in-depth interviews. The empirical evidences were searched from CINAHL, OVID, Pub MED, Science Direct and 24 institutions databases. There were 8 relevant studies, four randomized controlled trials three quasi-experimental studies and one qualitative study. All research papers were analyzed by using research utilization strategies. The research findings related to empowerment issues concerning stroke caregivers were used to develop the clinical nursing practice guideline and Stroke handbook for caregivers. The conceptual framework of this guideline based on the Gibson's concept of empowerment. (Gibson, 1993) The content validity of the guideline was examined by two rehabilitation physicians and a skilled rehabilitation nurse. After the guideline refinement, it was trialed with caregivers of two stroke patients admitted in rehabilitation ward, Sirindhorn National Medical Rehabilitation Centre. It was found that the guideline was feasible to empower the stroke caregivers at some levels.

According to the study, nurses implementing this guideline should be trained both the concept of empowerment and its process as well as the issues surrounding stroke rehabilitation. Further study needs to explore the effectiveness of the guideline which will bring fruitful profit to the stroke patient and their caregivers.