

## Abstract

This study aimed to investigate and compare the perception and expectations of nurse practitioners and administrators regarding the nurse practitioner's role performance in primary medical care in community hospitals, health region number 2, Ministry of Public Health. Two groups of samples consisted of 109 nurse practitioners and 77 administrators. The data were collected from January to March, 2009. The instruments for collecting the data, role expectation and role perception questionnaire, were validated by three experts. The instruments were piloted by 30 nurse practitioners and 30 administrators with the same aspects as the sample groups, and this resulted in reliability for the questionnaire regarding the expectations and perception of nurse practitioners  $\alpha = 0.98, 0.99$  and administrators  $\alpha = 0.99, 0.98$ .

The findings revealed that nurse practitioners have overall role expectations and role perceptions on their role performance in primary medical care at a high level whereas administrators also have overall role expectations and role perceptions of the nurse practitioner's role performance at a high level. The nurse practitioner's role expectations and role perceptions were significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) which was similar to the administrator's role expectations and role perceptions. Moreover, the result shown that role expectations between nurse practitioners and administrators were not significantly different and role perceptions between the nurse practitioners and administrators were not significantly different as well.

Evidence from this study could lead to a roadmap to enhance the nurse practitioner's role performance in primary medical care. Administrators should provide opportunity to nurse practitioners to express their full potential in primary medical care especially in the context of community hospital.