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**HEALTH CENTER** 

BOONRUEN THONGPRON: PROFESSIONAL NURSES' ROLES IN MEDICAL CARE AT HEALTH CENTERS UNDER PILOT PROJECT OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH. THESIS ADVISORS: SURACHAT NA NONGKHAI LL.B., M.A., VASON SILPASUWAN Dr.P.H., DUSIT SUJIRARUT M.Sc.(Bios), 141 p. ISBN 974-663-628-6

The objective of this research was to assess the professional nurses' roles and factors affecting those roles and job performance in medical care at health centers under a pilot project of the Ministry of Public Health. Eighty five professional nurses completed self-administered questionnaires. Percentages, arithmetic means, standard deviation and correlation coefficient were performed for data analysis.

The research findings showed that job performance in medical care at health center was at moderate levels while roles of professional nurses in medical care were at the best levels. Regarding medical care, pharmaceutical service was perceived as good (55.3%) and best (44.7%); and general practice services, surgical services, obstetrics services, first- aid services and nosocomial infection control were found at best level. It was shown that marital status, number of attendance, income, medical care experience and referral distance were significantly related to roles and job performance. Regarding the research findings, it is recommended that nurses' roles, job analysis and redesigning of jobs should be concurrently reconsidered; and job performance should be supported and promoted in order to obtain a higher quality of services.