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This descriptive research was to assess the role performance of professional nurses and its relationship to personal characteristics, role perception, professional values and organizational commitment of professional nurses in Chainat Hospital. The data were collected from 146 professional nurses in Chainat Hospital, Chainat Province by using questionnaires from 28 February - 10 March 2000. All questionnaires were returned.

The results showed that, professional nurses were an average of 31.4 years old 53.4% were single and their average working time in Chainat Hospital was 9.3 years. About 74.7% of them had high role performance. For administrative, service and academic aspects, most of them (94.5%) had high role perception. Most of them had a high level in administration, service and academic aspects, (97.3%, 92.5% and 73.3% respectively). 95.2% of them had high professional values. About 56.8% had moderate organizational commitment. For organizational commitment and loyalty, most of them had a moderate level (72.6% and 61.0% respectively) and for identification (68.5%) a high level. The role performance had a significant relationship with personal characteristics, role perception, professional values and organizational commitment ($p < .05$). When analyzing with stepwise multiple regression, it was found that the three variables organizational commitment on target acceptance, age and professional values had a positive relationship with role performance. Those three factors could explain the variation of professional nurses role performance in Chainat Hospital at 13.0%. Professional nurses should be allowed to participate in formulating the work policy, so that the values and targets would be acceptable and consistent with their needs. Finally, their skills should be enhanced by job rotation and promotion of professional values to perform better in their profession.