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KRONGKAN HOMKLIN : HOSPITAL STANDARDS IN PHYSICAL STRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT FOR HOSPITAL ACCREDITATION IN THAILAND. THESIS ADVISOR : SOMCHART TORUGSA M.P.H., PEERA KRUGKRUNJIT M.Sc.(Bios)., SURACHART NA NONGKHAI LL. M.A., WISIT PHIJAISANIT M.S. H.A., SHALASAI HUANGPRASERT M.P.H., ANAN PRASANSUK M.D., 229 p. ISBN 974-664-333-9

Physical structure and environment represent the hospital's image and they can support the services of the hospital. At present, the existing hospital standards in physical structure and environment in Thailand are unclear, incomplete and not accepted by concerned professionals and organizations.

The purpose of this qualitative research was to establish hospital standards in physical structure and environment for hospital accreditation in Thailand, which were based upon existing standards and practices in USA, Canada, The United Kingdom, Australia, and The Thai Social Security Office. Nineteen experts from hospital managers, hospital staffs and academic persons were selected for a Delphi technique application. The evaluation criteria were four levels of hospital practice : (A) essential, (B) good, (C) desirable and (X) inappropriate. The results were analyzed using frequency and percentage distribution.

The results showed that hospital standards in physical structure and environment of different countries were as follows : 4 major standards in USA, 21 major standards in Canada, 12 major standards in Australia, 7 major standards 37 major criteria and 60 minor criteria in The United Kingdom and 1 major standard, 3 major criteria and 20 minor criteria in The Thai Social Security Office. The initial hospital standards in physical structure and environment for hospital accreditation in Thailand consisted of 7 major standards, 41 major criteria and 70 minor criteria. The standards were considered by the experts as 4 levels, level (A) 35 major criteria and 51 minor criteria, level (B) 6 major criteria and 19 minor criteria and no level (C) or (X). These standards were subject to continual scrutiny and revisions for implementation in both public and private hospitals. Further study to identify impact factors and problems in order to bring about an improvement in the appropriate standards used for Thailand hospital accreditation, is recommended.