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KEY WORDS: INFECTIOUS WASTE, INFECTIOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT, COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, MODEL.

NANGNOY PLOYVISES: APPROPRIATE MODEL FOR INFECTIOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY HOSPITAL: A CASE STUDY IN NAKORNPATHOM PROVINCE.THESIS ADVISERS: LADDAWAN THONG-NOP, M.P.H., SOMPONG TONGCHAI,M.SC., SOMSRI DAOCHAI, M.SC., SANCHAI SUTIPANWIHAN, M.SC., SOMPORN SANTIPRASITKUL, M.SC., 263 P. ISBN 974-663-370-8

The infectious waste from hospital is regarded as the most dangerous of environmental pollutants. Three of 60 – beds community hospitals in Nakornpathom province were studied in this case study for infectious waste management. The study was divided into 2 parts; i) by interviewing specified sampling stuff members concerned with infectious waste disposal in the hospitals including waste collection/ weighing and, ii) nine study criteria were investigated and compared to the standard values from the WHO, The USA., and Thai Department of Health.

The study identified infectious waste of 0.4019 kg, 0.6166 kg and 0.7148 kg/bed/day from these three hospitals. Most of them were gauze, cotton, needles and blades. The result of this investigation, in terms of descriptive and quantitative percentages showed that the standards of waste management of 3 hospitals under study were not up to par with those specified by WHO and those of the U.S.A. Using Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand as standard criteria, three suggestions were made under this study to construct an appropriate model for infectious waste management in the three community hospitals namely; improving, re-engineering and reforming the waste management system.