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KEY WORD : KNOWLEDGE OF PATIENT'S RIGHTS / AWARENESS OF PATIENT'S RIGHTS / PATIENT'S RIGHTS / WATSON THEORY OF TRANSPERSONAL CARING / NURSES CARING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS

WILAWAN BUNMANUCH : THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE OF PATIENT'S RIGHTS, AWARENESS OF PATIENT'S RIGHTS AND TRANSPERSONAL CARING FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS BY NURSES AT THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE RAMATHIBODI HOSPITAL. THESIS ADVISORS : TASSANEE NONTASORN, M.Ed., Ph.D. (Ed. Psy.), CHARUVAN HEMATORN, M.P.H., KARNIKA SUWONAKOTE, MS., Ph.D., ARONRAG MEEYAI, B.S. (Economics), M.S. (Applied Statistics), 255 p. ISBN 974-334-813-1

The purpose of this survey research was to study the nurses' level of knowledge of patient's rights, the level of awareness of patient's rights, the level of caring for terminally ill patients and the relationship between knowledge of patient's rights, awareness of patient's rights and caring for terminally ill patients among these nurses. Concept of patient's rights and Watson's Theory of Transpersonal Caring were used as a framework for the study.

The sample consisted of 143 nurses who were working in the medicine, surgical, orthopedic, gyne and EENT wards at the Faculty of Medicine Ramathibodi Hospital, selected by purposive sampling. A self administered questionnaire was used to collect the data to measure the nurses' knowledge of patient's rights, awareness of patient's rights and caring for terminally ill patients. The reliability of this tool was 0.52, 0.86 and 0.96. The statistical methods used in data analysis were frequencies, percentage, range, arithmetic mean, standard deviation and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient.

Result of the study showed that the knowledge of patient's rights was at a high level (78.3%), awareness of patient's rights was at a high level (97.9%) and caring for terminally ill patients was at a high level (50.3%). The Pearson Correlation Coefficient analysis showed no significant correlation's between the nurses' knowledge of patient's rights and nurses caring for terminally ill patients. Awareness of patient's rights and caring for terminally ill patients were significantly correlated in a positive way at a middle level ($p < .01$)

It is recommended that nurses caring for terminally ill patients should be at a high level. Nurses should be trained in effective care of terminally ill patients and, the standard method of terminally ill patient advocacy. There should be programs about the knowledge of patient's rights. Awareness of patient's rights should be promoted so that nurses feel comfortable and willing to care for patients with patients' rights in mind.