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USA WAWSAWAD : THE PROFESSIONAL NURSES' DISCHARGE PLANNING : A CASE
STUDY IN HOSPITALS, RATCHABURI PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISORS : PIMPAN SILPASUWAN,
Ed. D., Cert. (Community Development), CHUKIAT VIWATWONGKASEM, M.Sc. (Biostatistic), SULEE
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At present, the problem of illness about infectious diseases is continuing and chronic diseases are increasing. These illnesses take a long time to cure, so health services should be improved for continuous care between hospital and community. The importance of continuity care is discharge planning, and professional nurses have to help patients and families for self – care. So the objectives of this survey research were to study the discharge planning and to analyze relationships between personal work factors, knowledge, attitude, and management factors in professional nurses' discharge planning. In addition, selective factors were determined to predict the efficiency of professional nurses' discharge planning. The samples consisted of 238 professional nurses working in Ratchaburi province hospital, Ministry of Public Health. A questionnaire was designed to collect the data. Head nurses were interviewed and questionnaires were collected about nurses' discharge planning from 50 patient cases. Descriptive statistics, Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient, and regression analysis were used to test the research hypothesis.

Results of this study showed that the professional nurses' discharge planning was at a moderate level. Hospital policy, management, and control of the nursing department were positively correlated with the professional nurses' discharge planning. About 32.6 percent of the variance of the professional nurses' discharge planning could be significantly predicted by management and control of nursing departments. From the interviews of head nurses, it was found that the policies and model of discharge planning were not clear, and nurses were too busy taking care of patients to do discharge planning. According to 50 questionnaires, most patients did not receive a manual for self – care of diseases, suggestions to relieve stress, nor explanations about side effects of drugs .

This study suggests that, in order to increase the efficiency of discharge planning, head nurses should formulate clear policies on discharge planning and support the resources, model, and manual about discharge planning for professional nurses and continuous supervision.