

In the process of hospital accreditation , infection control nurses are the key persons to motivate hospital personnel to realize the importance of and follow the infection control policy. This descriptive research aimed to study the practiced roles, problems, obstacles, and needs for support of infection control nurses (ICN) in hospital accreditation. The population were 23 ICNs working in the university hospitals that had already registered for the hospital accreditation process. Data were collected during March to April, 2002 by using questionnaires and semi-structured interview forms. The content validity was examined by five experts. Data were analyzed by using descriptive statistics and content analysis.

The results showed that the roles of infection control nurses in hospital accreditation could be classified into eight roles as follows: management, surveillance, outbreak investigation, education, employee health, consultation, research, and quality improvement. The majority of ICNs practiced all roles. However, there were some activities that they did not perform such as

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participating in physical examinations, employee health surveillance, evaluating knowledge and practice of the hospital personnel after providing educational programs (100%), and the roles that was least practiced was that of conducting research by themselves. (47.8%)

The problems and obstacles of the practice roles in hospital accreditation were lack of position of ICNs, inadequate number of ICNs, policy not implemented by hospital personnels, lack of budget necessary for equipment, lack of budget for employee immunization, and lack of source of information , lack of information and limit of budgets for education and training.

The needed support was positions for ICNs, adequate number of full time ICNs, having a unit responsible for employee health and providing a budget for the necessary equipment and employee immunization.

The results of this study indicated that there should be specific positions for ICNs working full time and budget allocation for achievement and efficiency of infection control in hospital accreditation.