

Thesis Title                    The Effectiveness of Health Education Program with  
                                 Social Support on Inhalant Patient's Behavior  
                                 during Treatment Course at Thanyarak Hospital,  
                                 Pathumthani Province

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#### ABSTRACT

Inhalant substances are harmful to human body organs. The damaging organs can not be cured or rehabilitated. Thus early treatment to stop inhaling is the best approach to protect the organs. However, a large number of inhalant patients leave out the treatment course. So, the main objective of this quasi-experimental research was to study the effectiveness of health education program with social support from ward nurses on inhalant patient's behavior during treatment, course at Thanyarak Hospital, Pathumthani province. In designing the program, Benjamin Bloom's learning theory and House's social support model were applied. Samples were 90 inhalant in-patients who were admitted at the Thanyarak hospital during January to March, 1992. The first half of the sample was assigned into experimental group. The second half was assigned into comparison group. At the end of the program there were 38 and 29 patients remain in the experimental and the comparison group. The experimental group was requested to go through the 21 days program. They were participated in

the health education activities conducted by the researcher in the first week. They were also received social support from the nurses sequentially through the rest of the program. The data according to studied variables were collected both before and after the experimentation. Their compliance behaviors related to the treatment were observed and recorded by the nurses.

The result of the study revealed that knowledge about the inhalant agent; attitude toward the agent, severity of inhaling the agent, and the benefits from complying to medical regimen and nurse advice, of the experimental group were improved significantly. Their treatment behaviors, which were:- following the advice and hospital regulations, attending social activities regularly, having medicine as prescribed, and participating in the program for 21 days, were also improved. Beside the results above, it was found that the knowledge, the attitude and the treatment behaviors were significantly related; the social support from ward nurses was related to the knowledge, the attitude, and the treatment behaviors. Most of the demographic variables namely sex, age, occupation, reasons to inhale the substances and duration period of inhaling the substances were not significantly related to the knowledge, the attitude and the behaviors. However, before the experimentation the reasons to seek treatment was related to the attitude, while after the experimentation the educational level was related to the knowledge and the attitude.

The results above suggested that this program can be applied to increase the knowledge and attitude about inhalant substances as well as to improve the treatment behaviors of the inhalant patients. The most important is that the program can help the patients to stay through the treatment course for 21 days.