

Thesis Title

Conflicts between Nursing-care and Self-protection Roles, and Nurses' Behaviors toward Suspected HIV positive Patients

Name

Chada Arunrattana

Degree

Master of Arts(Medical and Health Social Sciences)

Thesis Supervisory Committee

Veena Sirisook, M.Ed., Dr. P.H.

Oratai Rauyajin, M.P.H., Dr. P.H.

Mullida Muttiko, B.Sc., M.A.

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study were to analyse conflicts between nursing-care and self-protection roles, nursing-care and self-protection behaviors of emergency nurses concerning suspected HIV positive patients. This study also intended to reveal factors related to conflicts between nursing-care and self-protection roles and nurses' behaviors toward suspected HIV positive patients. The emergency unit at Ramathibodi Hospital was selected as a case study. Data collection methods employed were both qualitative and quantitative approaches : non-participant observation, participant observation, Indepth interview, focus group interview, studying from nurse's notes and using a questionnaire.

The results of the study showed that the nurses assessed the patients as suspected HIV positive by using patient's history and their characteristics which were similar to some characteristics of HIV-high-risk groups. Conflicts between nursing-care and self-protection roles concerning suspected HIV positive patients might be explained by an imbalance between self protection before giving nursing-care and nursing-care roles, specifically with severe emergency patients. These conflicts were less or did not occur if the nurses had a good self-protection before giving nursing-care to any suspected HIV positive patients.

Nursing-care and self-protection behaviors of emergency nurses toward suspected HIV-positive patients had associations with severity of patients' signs of emergency. The patients with slight emergency received a little nursing-care from emergency nurses because they protected themselves by avoiding contacting the suspected patients. The patients with severe and moderate emergency mostly received complete nursing-care from emergency nurse. Emergency nurses had self protection before giving nursing-care to the suspected HIV positive patients who had moderate emergency signs, but they didn't have self protection before giving nursing-care to the suspected HIV positive patients when the patients had severe emergency signs.

The important causes of conflicts between nursing-care and self-protection roles and nurses' behaviors toward suspected HIV positive patients were patient's signs of emergency, Known of patient's history and experiences of nursing-care to HIV positive patients. The results showed that emergency nurses had a little protection of HIV infection from suspected HIV positive patients when it was considered by using the standard of HIV infection-protection.

In conclusion, if emergency nurses have sufficient HIV protections for giving nursing-cares to suspected HIV positive patients, conflicts between nursing-care and self-protection roles of emergency nurses toward suspected HIV positive patients should be reduced, and then patients should also received better nursing cares.