

The elderly after coronary artery bypass grafting might have self-care problems at home in environmental, psychosocial, physiological, and health behavioral domains. They might have home health care needs in medical services, assistance, education, and other. Home care service could help them to have independent self-care. The purposes of this research were to examine health related problems and home care needs among the elderly after coronary artery bypass grafting. The subjects, chosen purposively, consisted of 112 elderly after coronary artery bypass grafting who attended the Cardio-Vascular-Thoracic Surgery Clinic, Out Patient Department, Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital. Data collection was conducted during January, 4 to May, 20, 2002. The instruments employed in this study were the Demographic Data Form, the Health Related Problems Interview approved by a panel of expert which the content validity index was .85 and reliability was .71, and the Home Care Needs Interview approved by a panel of expert which

the content validity index was .77 and reliability was .97. Data were analyzed by descriptive statistics.

The results of this study revealed that:

1. The average score of health related problems of the elderly after coronary artery bypass grafting was at a low level, either totally or individually of each domain. The high level of health related problems were limited social contact, difficulty bathing, and inadequate knowledge of medication. The moderate level of health related problems were steep stairs, role change, emotional instability, limited recall of recent events, incisional wound pain, limited walking, anorexia, constipation, difficulty dressing, difficulty moving, sleep disturbance, deviated from prescribed dosage/schedule, and difficulty using stocking; and

2. The average score of home care needs of the elderly after coronary artery bypass grafting was at a moderate level in medical service, education and other needs, while that of the assistance need was at a mild level.

These results, hence, indicate that care planning for the elderly after coronary artery bypass grafting should focus upon psychosocial support, physical assistance and health behavior. This is anticipated to provide care consonant with the needs of the elderly appropriately.