

Abstract

This survey study aims to study Corrective Actions for and Responses to Social Support Needs of Critically ill Patients' Relatives. With the purposive sampling method, the samples were 100 relatives of critically ill patients in 12 functions who visiting patents at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital. Collected by the questionnaires, the data was analyzed by the package program i.e. frequency distribution, percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test and F-test at the statistical significant level of 0.05, including Pearson Product-moment Correlation Coefficient. It was found from the study as follows.

With regard of livings and problems, most of the critically ill patients' relatives travelled to the hospital by bus, came with all family members, and waited for visit at chairs in front of the ICU Ward. Half of them (50.0%) stayed overnight at their own homes or relative homes. The most favorite place to buy food was food shops in the hospital. The main problem when nursing patients at the hospital was no visitor place available. When facing difficulty at the hospital, they asked for assistance form their relatives at 31.0%. During their visit, four social support needs of critically ill patients' relatives i.e. information, physical, emotional and spiritual needs were at the high level ($\bar{X}=4.28$, S.D.=0.320). From the test on relationships between personal factors and social support needs of critically ill patients' relatives during their visit, two personal factors had the relationship at the statistical significant level of .05. Firstly, occupation had the relationship with physical need. From the paired comparison, it was found that agricultural occupation had social support needs different from that of other occupations; social support needs of others were indifferent. Secondly, income sufficiency had the relationship with physical need but no relationship with other social needs. Other personal factors had no relationship with all social support needs at the statistical significant level of 0.05

From the study, the recommendations are that the hospital should provide more places and facilities for patients' relatives. Physicians and nurses should provide information on patient symptoms daily and affirm that patients will be best treated all times.

