

Thesis Title Opinion and Practice of Pediatric Nurses Concerning Rights of
Pediatric Patients

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ABSTRACT

Children, as clients, are vulnerable to being deprived of their rights. Pediatric nurses, as advocates, play an important role in this issue. This descriptive survey aimed to explore opinions and practice of pediatric nurses concerning rights of pediatric patients. The sample of 399 pediatric nurses in Queen Sirikit National Institute of Child Health and Siriraj Hospital was selected and asked to respond to two questionnaires regarding demographic information and opinions and practice related to rights of pediatric patients. Data were descriptively analyzed by using SPSS/PC⁺.

The results revealed that 85% of pediatric nurses strongly agreed that pediatric patients should be able to exercise their own rights including rights to access quality health services, rights to be promoted in development, rights to live in healthy environment, rights to be recognized as a person, rights to be informed, and rights to make decisions, respectively. Nevertheless, almost 40% of nurses slightly agreed that pediatric patients should have equal rights to those adults in every aspect, including rights to privacy, rights to nursing care needs, rights to know about hospital bills, and rights to refuse treatments and care for school children and adolescents, respectively.

As advocates, 85% of pediatric nurses always protected rights of pediatric patients in their everyday practice. There were rights to access quality health services, rights to be recognized as a person, rights to live in healthy environment, rights to be promoted in development, rights to be informed, and rights to make decisions,

respectively. However 40% of pediatric nurses slightly exercised their role in protection of pediatric patients' rights including asking physicians to change or withhold painful treatments, maintaining privacy, providing appropriate activities and play for individual children, offering extra visiting hours, encouraging parents to be involved in care given, giving information by using simple terms, informing before giving care and treatment and accepting the refusal of treatment and care.

The finding of this study suggested pediatric nurses need knowledge relating to rights of pediatric patients. Inservice education concerning pediatric patients' rights should be considered in the first place. Communication skill that are necessary for protecting rights of pediatric patients should be developed, in order to acquire quality of nursing care. Further research should explore rights specific to children as clients. Patterns of protecting rights of pediatric patients in everyday nursing practice should be explored.