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TRAINING/EXPERIENCE

CHIRAPORN YACHOMPOO: DISCHARGE PROCESS OF AIDS
PATIENTS BY REGISTERED NURSES IN REGIONAL HOSPITALS,
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH. THESIS ADVISORS: JARIYAWAT
KOMPAYAK, Dr.P.H., PANUDDA PRIYATRUK, M.S., USAPORN
CHAVALITNITIKUL, M.P.H., 81 P., ISBN 974-664-189-1

The discharge process of AIDS patients by registered nurses is a nursing practice for patients and relatives in the transition from hospital to home. This should deliver high quality of self-care, satisfaction, cost-effectiveness, shorten hospitalization period, and reduce the rate of re-admission.

This study describes the discharge process for AIDS patients by registered nurses and identifies characteristics of registered nurses - age, level of education, care experiences for HIV/AIDS (in years), care training for HIV/AIDS, and relationships with AIDS patients and their families. 188 staff registered nurses practicing in medical units in regional hospitals, Ministry of Public Health, were selected by using multi-stage sampling. Data were collected using questionnaires which were developed by the researcher using Shine's concepts and the discharge planning guideline from Nursing Division, Ministry of Public Health. Data were analyzed using percentage, mean, standard deviation, chi-square test and multiple logistic regression.

The study revealed that 53.7% of the registered nurses did not practice the discharge process for AIDS patients using problems and needs assessment, discharge planning, discharge implementation and evaluation at 50.0%, 48.9%, 47.9%, and 49.5% respectively. The registered nurses did not have care training for AIDS patients experience (68.1%) and discharge process training for AIDS patients experience (86.7%). The average of registered nurses AIDS care experience was 6 years. Overall, 53.7% of the registered nurses experienced relationships with patients and families. Those nurses experienced a relationship with patients and families and the practice of a discharge process for AIDS patients was 2.6 times higher than for those nurses that did not experience a relationship. A significant correlation was found between the relationship of patients and family and the discharge process of AIDS patients by registered nurses at .01 a level of statistical significance.

The recommendation for improving the discharge process of AIDS patients by registered nurses is an emphasis on continuing nursing care training, empowerment in relationship skills and improvement of the discharge form.