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PARINDA ROHITASTHIRA: KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES OF
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TOWARD THE CLINICAL BUDGET HOLDING
PROJECT AT SENA HOSPITAL. THESIS ADVISORS: PETCHARAT
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The objective of this study was to determine knowledge and attitudes of government officials toward the clinical budget holding project. This study was a prospective and cross-sectional survey study. 210 hospital staff members were surveyed twice during the study, in March and July 1999. They were classified by internal market groups (support, purchasers, and providers) and hospital staff status (head, subhead, and member). A questionnaire was used to assess knowledge and attitudes toward the project as it progresses and the hospital staffs have been actively participating in the project. Knowledge was determined by multiple-choice questions and attitude was assessed by using a Likert- scale (5 = strongly agree, 4 = agree, 3 = uncertain, 2 = disagree, 1 = strongly disagree). SPSS software program was used for data analysis. Descriptive statistics, Student-t test, and one-way ANOVA were used for comparing knowledge and attitudes within each group between the two phases of data collection.

The results showed that total response rates were 76.2% and 80.5% in March and July respectively. For knowledge, there was significantly better knowledge at the second data collection ($p < 0.05$). The results showed that mean \pm SD. of knowledge scores were 9.51 ± 3.51 and 10.90 ± 2.71 in March and July respectively. Significant difference of knowledge was found within the internal market group. Providers had the highest knowledge score, whereas purchasers had the lowest scores. For score level (poor = 0-7, fair = 8-11, and good = 12-15), better scores also were shown in the second data collection. For attitudes, the respondents had significantly more positive attitudes toward the project ($p < 0.05$), mean = 3.63 ± 0.31 in March and 3.76 ± 0.32 in July. There were no significant differences of attitudes among the groups of internal market and groups of status.

This study would be beneficial for director and administrative committees at Sena hospital as well as other hospitals for decision making and management to improve and apply the clinical budget holding project in the future.