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YUPA JEWPATANAJUN : NEEDS OF HOME HEALTH CARE OF
POSTPARTUM MOTHERS. THESIS ADVISOR: SUPAWADEE LIMPANATORN,
M.N., KAIMOOK MALITHONG, M.P.H., NANTAWON SUWANNAROOP, Ph.D.,
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The purposes of this descriptive study were to find out needs of home health care and factors related to home health care needs of postpartum mothers between 6-8 weeks after delivery. The samples of 400 postpartum mothers were selected from the postpartum clinics at Siriraj Hospital, Somdet Pha Pin Klao Hospital, and Tak Sin Hospital. The data were collected during April-June 2000 using the questionnaire, which was constructed according to the Neuman System Model. Data were analyzed by using frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation analyses, and Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient.

The results revealed high level of the overall mean of home health care needs (mean = 2.59, S.D = .48). Five subscales of home health care needs were physiological, psychological, socio-cultural, developmental, and spiritual domains. Developmental needs ranked the highest of home health care needs (mean = 2.85). Socio-cultural needs (mean = 2.65), physiological needs (mean = 2.58), spiritual needs (mean = 2.35), and psychological needs (mean = 2.30) were ranked respectively. When each item of subscale was analyzed, it was found that high developmental needs were : for knowledge of child's growth and development (mean = 3.29) ; socio-cultural needs for health services which are open 24 hours (mean = 3.16) ; physiological needs about complication (mean = 3.24) ; spiritual needs for practice according to their believes (mean = 2.82) ; and the psychological needs for support during postpartum period (mean = 2.80). The education level was found to have a positive correlation with needs of home health care of postpartum mothers ; whereas, the number of children had a negative correlation ($p = 0.01$).

An emphasis on the continuing care between health service centers and home using effective referral system is recommended for postpartum care. The community health care providers may use results of this study as a guideline to fully respond to the real needs of postpartum mothers especially the needs to information of child's growth and development, need to had health care services, and need to know about complication. Lastly the community health nurses should have a care plan according to the real needs required by the postpartum mothers. Community health nurse could assess the needs of home health care of postpartum mothers by considering basic structure factors and environment factors associated with postpartum mothers.