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The purpose of this descriptive study was to study the nursing practices for the prevention and control of nosocomial infection in the medical wards at Somdejprapinklao Hospital. The sample was 42 nurses, who practiced in the male and female medical wards at Somdejprapinklao Hospital. The instrument was interview questionnaire. Data collection was performed from 1st Febuary to 1st March 2000. Analysis of data was done by percentage, mean and standard deviation.

The results of this study showed the nurses practices were mainly correct in washing their hands after performing nursing care but they did not wash hands before nursing care. For precautions against respiratory tract infection, most of the nursing practices were placing TB patients in a separate room or in the corner of a room, but the least practice nurses did not tell the active TB patients to wear masks when transferring patients to another ward. For precautions of blood and body fluids, most nurses performed correctly in the category discarding disposable equipment contaminated with blood, needles, and sharp objects into the puncture-resistant containers. For the nursing practice to prevent infection in each system, the nurses had practiced with utmost correctness, such as while inserting urinary catheter, they changed gloves immediately after contact with dirty things they suctioned of endotracheal secretion before feeding through nasogastric tube. In the aspect of nursing practice on prevention of intravascular infusion associated infection the nurses had practiced mostly correct for cleaning skin with alcohol (70 %) and left it for at least 30 seconds or until the skin dried before insertion of catheter. The lowest level of precaution was that nurses did not put sterilized gauze to cover the insertion site.

This study suggests that most nurses should practice with conscience and responsibility of infection control and should be aware of the necessity of prevention and control of nosocomial infection. The administrators should provide technical support, and appropriate equipment for nursing practice. Moreover, they should conduct an inservice education and monitor nursing practices for prevention and control of infection periodically.