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SIRIKAN BORISUTHIPANDIT: EFFECTS OF PRIMARY NURSING ASSIGNMENT SYSTEMS ON THE UTILIZATION OF NURSING PROCESS, AUTONOMY, AND PERFORMANCE, AS WELL AS ON PATIENTS' SATISFACTION OF NURSING SERVICE. THESIS ADVISOR: PENCHAN S MONAIYAPONG, M.Ed. PANWADEE PUTWATTANA, Ph.D. 120 P. ISBN 974-589-269-6

Primary nursing assignment is an important step in the development of nursing administration, and leads to the maximum utilization of nursing potential. This quasi-experimental study of 9 nurses and 146 patients admitted to the Male Surgical Ward #5, Maharaj Nakorn Chiangmai Hospital, Chiangmai University, were divided into a control group (n=73) and an experimental group (n=73), according to their period of admission. The controlled period ran from July to September, and the experimental period ran from October to December 1996. The nurses answered 2 questionnaires concerning nursing autonomy and nursing performance at the end of each period. Information on patients' satisfaction was collected by questionnaire from the patients on the day of discharge. Nursing process was evaluated from patients' charts. Paired t-test and grouped t-test were used to compare the two groups.

The study showed that primary nursing assignment systems utilized nursing process, autonomy, and performance more than in team nursing assignment systems ($p < .05$). However, patients' satisfaction did not show significant difference ($p > .05$) between the two nursing assignment systems.