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CHOLLADA CHAROENLARP : THE STUDY OF INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES AMONG NURSES IN SURATTHANI PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISOR : KRONGKARN SANGKARD Ph.D., SUVIMOL KIMPEE M.Ed., SOMBAT TANPRASURTSUK M.D., M.P.H., 109 p. ISBN 974-588-953-9.

Nosocomial infection is a major health problem. In order to reduce the infection rate, an infection control program is required. This program needs the support and coordination of all healthcare workers. Nurses who provide direct patient care have a major role in reducing the rate of infection and improving quality of care.

The purpose of this study was to study infection control practices among nurses in Suratthani province. The sample group was composed of 275 nurses in all levels that work in In-patient Department of 18 hospitals. Data was collected by proportional stratified random sampling, using questionnaires from March to May 1997. All 275 nurses responded. Analysis of data was done by frequencies, means, standard deviation, and t-test . The result revealed that:

1. Infection control behaviors of nurses in Suratthani province was at the medium level.
2. The level of education, the size of hospital, and training were not significantly related to infection control behavior at .05 level.
3. Nurses with high level of health belief had better infection control behaviors than nurses with medium level of health belief. ( $p < .05$ )

As a result of the study the following recommendations for infection control behaviors are suggested: promoting in-service education about infection control procedures; nurses need to identify the problem and should develop new and improved practices in the prevention of nosocomial infections. These new and improved nursing standard should be applied to their every day practice to improve quality of care.