

Thesis Title Practice of Infection Control Nurses in Regional and General
Hospitals Ministry of Public Health

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M.N.S. Infection Control Nursing

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to describe the practices, the problems, and the suggestions of infection control nurses in prevention and control of nosocomial infection. The population was 130 infection control nurses who worked in regional and general hospitals, Ministry of Public Health. Data was collected during October to November, 1998 by using self-administered questionnaires which were mailed to the study population. One hundred and nine (83.8%) completed questionnaires were received. Data was analysed by using descriptive statistics.

The results of this study revealed that infection control nurses could perform 77.3% of all the practices, including the practices of counselling, administration and management, nosocomial infection surveillance, education, outbreak investigation, research and employee health. These practices were performed 91.1%, 83.5%, 83.1%, 80.3%, 73.7%, 71.2% and 52.7% respectively. The majority of the practices were performed by more than 80% of the infection control nurses, except for practices in research such as conducting research on their own, publication of research, recording surveillance data, record keeping of personnel physical examinations and illnesses, participation in physical examinations of new personnel and immunization of personnel. All these practices were performed 42.2%, 39.4%, 38.5%, 35.8%, 32.1% and 30.3% respectively.

The major problems encountered by infection control nurses were the lack of specific positions for infection control nurses, the inadequate knowledge, the assignments to do jobs other than infection control, the non-existent offices, the lack of budget, the lack of cooperation from hospital personnel and consultants and, finally, the lack of computers including a standard program² for data analysis. The infection control nurses suggested that the Ministry of Public Health should evaluate hospital infection control programs and give feedback to hospital administrators. They should also provide suitable positions for infection control nurses, conduct training courses and seminars, and provide instructive documentation for the infection control nurses continuously.

The result of this study indicated that the following were needed : the organization of available infection control nursing positions, the supervision of all infection control activities, the improvement in knowledge through training programs and, finally, the provision of an appropriate working environment for infection control nurses.