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Thesis Title   Nurse-Patient Relationships and Powerlessness of

Patients in Intensive Care Unit

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Abstract

The purposes of this study were to investigate nurse-patient relationships, powerlessness, and relationship between nurse-patient relationships and the powerlessness of patients in an intensive care unit. The sample comprised 50 critically ill patients for the first time admitted at the medical intensive care unit, Uttaradit Hospital, between 3-5 days, during June to August 1996. The research instrument was a questionnaire composed of 3 parts: patient's demographic data questionnaire, the nurse-patient relationships scale constructed by the researcher, and the powerlessness scale developed by Totsaporn Phattnaniraman in 1989. The content validity of the nurse-patients relationship scale was assesed by experts. The reliabilities of the nurse-patient relationships scale and the powerlessness scale,

obtained by using Cronbach's coefficient, were .81 equally. Data were collected by the researcher and analysed by means of frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient.

The results of this study were as follows:

1. The nurse-patient relationships in an intensive care unit patient was at the best level;

2. The powerlessness level of the patient in an intensive care unit as total was at a mild level and when considering in parts revealed that the physiological loss of control, the environment loss of control, and the lack of knowledge were equally at the mild levels with the psychosocial loss of control was at the least level; and

3. There was a statistically significant negative relationship between nurse-patient relationships and powerlessness at the level of .01.