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Investigation of Factors Associated with Influenza Vaccination among Hospital Workers

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Influenza is a highly contagious acute respiratory disease. Hospital workers not only are high risk population in terms of occupational exposure, but they, under influence of the disease, can also transmit influenza to their patients who can afterward develop complications or even die from the disease. Therefore this study was targeted at hospital workers to investigate their knowledge, attitude and behavior regarding to influenza vaccination. This was a cross-sectional study that included hospital workers from southern Taiwan. In order to include all types of hospital workers in this study, study subjects were selective purposively. A structure questionnaire was designed to collect study information. Information collected in the questionnaire included: knowledge of influenza, knowledge of influenza vaccination, attitude toward influenza vaccination, personal influenza vaccination experience and personal characteristics. Five hundred study subjects participated in this study. Data analysis utilized statistical software SPSS v. 15.0. Students't test and ANOVA analysis were performed to analyze the relation between worker's characteristics and influenza knowledge, influenza vaccination knowledge and attitude of vaccination. The results showed that influenza knowledge was related to year of work experience; experienced workers were having higher influenza knowledge scores than those who did not. Also, influenza vaccination knowledge was related to attitude of influenza vaccination; those who indicated willing to receive influenza vaccination next year were having higher influenza vaccination knowledge scores than those who did not. Therefore, it is crucial that hospital managers should target at hospital workers' vaccination knowledge to increase their vaccination behavior.

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Effects of the Sakado School-Based "Shokuiku" Food and Nutrition Education Project on Breakfast and Snacks

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Purpose: The Sakado School-based Food and Nutrition Education project have been developed from 2006. The effectiveness on eating breakfast everyday, appropriate eating of snacks and influential factors by this education intervention was examined.

Method: This study is a quasi-experimental design. The control group is comprised of 694 fifth-graders who participated in 2006 and the intervention group is

comprised of 808 fifth-graders participated in 2007 from all 13 primary schools in Sakado city.

The intervention group took new education program for 8 hours, and the control group was observed only.

Children of both group completed questionnaires at the beginning of this study (Pre) and after one year (Post).

Results: As for the knowledge of food group, though significant differences were seen between Pre and Post of both group, the intervention group was significantly more improved than the control group ($p < 0.01$). A positive attitude to health and diet, there was significant difference between Pre and Post in the intervention group only ($p < 0.05$). With respect to self-efficacy for good health and eating behavior, the intervention group improved more than the control group for one year. Significantly more children in the intervention group ate breakfast every day than the control group ($p < 0.05$). The intervention group significantly decreased intake frequency of soft beverage drinks after one year ($p < 0.01$), but the control group did not significantly decrease.

Consideration: Education program is effective on intake of soft beverage drinks and eating breakfast everyday through improvement of predisposing factors.

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Health Status and Health Care Behavior among the Disabled People in Two Provinces of Thailand

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Objective: To study the situation of health status and health care behavior of the disabled people in two provinces of Thailand

Methods: A cross-sectional survey was conducted in 5,352 disabled people age over 15 years by multistage cluster sampling. The data were collected from April to June 2008 by interviewing questionnaires and in-dept interview. Data were analyzed by frequency and percentage.

Results: The most common disabilities were extremity abnormality (44.2%), intellectual impairment (16.3%), and visual defect (13.4). The common causes were congenital anomaly (42.4%), sequelae of chronic illness (31.4%), and accident (24.3%). For the disable level, 49.1% were partially self support, 44.8% were totally self support, and 6.1% were dependent. For the health care behavior, 69.7% had no exercise, by which 40.6% due to physical limitation, 47.2% did not seek medical consultation in the past one year. Most of the disabled people

(80.1%) received health information from television (57.6%) followed by health personnel (45.4%) and radio (39.5%). The disabled people needed social welfare and social right (74.8%), profession procurement (26.1%) and social acceptance (21.1%)

Conclusion: The important disability was extremities abnormality and common causes were congenital

anomaly and sequelae of chronic illness. Most of disabled people had no exercise and half of them did not seek medical consultation. The responsible organizations should provide the accessible social welfare and health care services to the disabled people.

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Quality of Life and Health Behaviors among Disabled People in Two Provinces of Thailand

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Objective: To examine health behaviors and quality of life among disabled people in two provinces of Thailand. **Material and Methods:** A cross-sectional study using multistage cluster sampling was collected from 5,352 people who living with disabilities from Chiang Mai and Nakhon Ratchasima from April to June 2008. The WHOQOL-brief and health behavior scales were used to measure QOL and health behavior.

Results: Majority of disabled people had overall health behaviors related to exercise and health responsibility at need to improve level (46.6%, 52.8%), while nutritional behavior and stress management was at good level (80.8%, 43.8%,). Overall quality of life was mostly at moderate level (79.3%), the second was good level (14.6%). Analysis of the relationship found that exercise and stress management had significantly positive relationships with quality of life at low level ($r = 0.18$, $r = 0.12$) at $p < 0.01$.

Conclusion: The result indicated that person who had health promoting behavior by nutrition, exercise, stress management were good QOL. An intervention study should be conducted to promote family and health authority support in promoting quality of life.

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Factors Associated with Hospitalization in Long-Term Care Frail Persons

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Investigating the situation of being hospitalized and associate factors in long-term care frail persons. A historical cohort method is adopted to conduct the study. After identification of home nursing cases from the outpatient claimed database of the Bureau of National Health Insurance in 2002 as investigating targets. Those cases were be connected to the diagnosis or case reports of outpatient and inpatient. The logistic regression was used to analysis the risk of being hospitalized after adjusting the patient and hospital characteristics. Among the 26,760 home nursing of long-term care cases in 2002, percentage of female was 53%, age >65 years old was 82%, 66% at home and 34% at institutions. Among those

study cases, the percentage of being hospitalized was 73%, 222 times hospitalizations per hundred persons, and average frequency of inpatient is 3 times for every hospitalized case per year. From the results of analysis, it reveals that male, age over 65 years old, with significant disease and insurance location is at central Taiwan, living in Nursing Home, home visit serviced by affiliated with hospital and the institutions of total home visit over 172 times will have higher hospitalized ratio. Certain potential modifiable factors appear to be associated with hospitalization. Greater attention to improve control these factors may lead to improve outcomes in home nursing patients, which could result in reduced hospitalization and cost savings. To create subacute care system and enhance the connection of discharge planning and long term care resources is important.

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Perspective from Health Professionals on Delivery of Sub-Acute Care in Hong Kong

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Background: A number of studies have shown that unnecessary hospital admission and delayed patient discharge was significantly high. The provision of sub-acute care services aims to act a bridge between hospitals and home so as to reduce avoidable readmission.

Study Aim: The purpose of this study was to explore the perceived definition, role and quality of sub-acute care services in the context of Hong Kong from the perspective of health service providers.

Methods: Seven focus groups were conducted with a purposive sample of 50 participants from public and private health sectors. Discussion was led by a guide covering two main areas: definition/role of sub-acute care and quality of sub-acute care provision in the healthcare system.

Results: The sub-acute care was defined in this study as a phase between acute and convalescent stage or between acute and community. The roles of the provision of sub-acute care as an important component in the healthcare system to improve the quality of care, reduce avoidable hospital admission and facilitate early hospital discharge were acknowledged. For the quality, a number of barriers are identified including lack of service coordination between acute and sub-acute provisions, lack of communication between medical and social care, and inadequate specialist input and resources in the sub-acute care.

Conclusions: To enhance the quality of sub-acute care provision, the interface of sub-acute care with all health services sectors and stakeholders should be well coordinated and communicated so as to ensure integration with the whole system.