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**Developing a Protocol for Nursing Performance Related to
Child Health at Ambulatory Health Care Settings**

Thesis

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By

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Abstract

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Developing and implementing of clinical protocols are basic in nursing for improving and maintaining quality of client care, as well as helping the community health nurse to create data based on the nurses' performance related to child health at the ambulatory health care settings. The present study aimed to develop a protocol for nursing performance related to child health at ambulatory health care settings. A cross-sectional design was carried out on a sample of 73 nurses who are providing health care for children, 389 children's mothers, and 15 specialists in field of community health nursing. Five tools were used for data collection 1) Self-structured questionnaire to assess services provided by the ambulatory health care settings. 2) Self-administered structured questionnaire used to collect information about nurses' socio- demographic, and professional characteristics, and to assess nurses' knowledge regarding child health care. 3) observational checklists to assess nurse's performance (tasks of the nurse, taking and recording the child initial history, vital signs measurement, growth assessment, pediatric immunization, children physical examination (general survey), health education, counseling, and collecting blood spots of newborn for congenital hypothyroidism screening program). 4) An interview assessment scale to elicit mother's satisfaction with nurses' performance related to providing health care for their children, and 5) evaluation checklist was used to obtain feedback of community health nursing specialist about the developed protocol. The results revealed that 100.0% of ambulatory health care settings were providing preventive care health services for children less than five years, vitamins A supplementation, and child immunization services. Growth monitoring services were provided at 92.3 % of these settings. Regarding to the studied nurses, 55.4 % of them showed average total score level of knowledge regarding child health care. All of them (100.0%) showed improper total scores level of performance (taking and recording of child initial history, growth assessment, vital sign measurement, and immunization), while 53.8% of the nurses showed proper total score level of performance regarding collecting blood spots of newborn for congenital hypothyroidism screening program. In addition to generally almost three fourths (74.3%) of mothers were satisfied with the care delivered by the nurses to their children. All of expert 100.0% evaluators were agree regarding significance, the importance of the developed protocol to nursing, and legibility and printing characteristics. In addition to most (93.3%) of expert evaluators were agreed regarding content is sufficient to achieve the purposes, literary presentation, and illustrations. Their opening was considered and the required modifications were performed. The current study recommended that implementation of the developed protocol at ambulatory health care settings can improve the nurse's knowledge and skills performance regarding child health care.

Ambulatory health care, developing protocol, child health, well child visit.

Signed
Chairperson of the thesis