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Development of Quality Indicators on Important Aspects of Nosocomial Infection Prevention and Control

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ABSTRACT

Nosocomial infection (NI) stills remain a problem in Thailand. An infection prevention and control program plays an important role in reducing morbidity and mortality due to NI. The purpose of this study was to develop quality indicators (QIs) on the following aspects of NI: surgical site infection, urinary tract infection, ventilator-associated pneumonia, intravenous catheter-associated infection, standard precautions-related infection, dialysis-related infection, hospital waste management-related infection and employee health-related infection.

This study was divided into 4 stages, including current situation analysis, development of QIs, feasibility and applicability test of the QIs and the forum for the QIs refinement.

Major findings are that the majority of experts agreed with the QIs items and the majority of infection control nurses rated those items as feasible for the use. The QIs were categorized into two groups: general QIs and specific QIs. The specific QIs were divided into 8 aspects and each aspect consisted of three components: structure, process, and outcome. Therefore, most of the QIs developed from this study could be used to measure the quality of the nosocomial infection prevention and control in the context of Thai health care delivery system. Health care workers, especially infection control nurses, should try out in their settings to test for the actual use of the indicators. For further research, it is necessary to test the use of quality indicators in actual practice.

Key words: quality indicators; infection control; nosocomial infection