Reuse Practices of Single-Use Medical Devices in Secondary and Tertiary Hospitals

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Background: Reusing single-use medical devices can have serious risks for patients.

Objective: To determine the type of single-use medical devices being re-used and management methods.

Methods: This descriptive research study aimed to determine the type of single-use medical devices being reprocessed among 96 heads of Central Sterile Supply Departments in secondary and tertiary hospitals under the Ministry of Public Health, Thailand using the Reuse of Single-use Medical Devices Questionnaires which were developed from literature reviews. The data were collected between October and December, 2014 with a response rate of 87.50% and analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Results: The results showed that 82 hospitals (97.62%) re-use single-use medical devices. Sixty-seven single-use medical devices were re-used. The groups of devices most reprocessed were respiratory tract system devices (96.34%), devices for surgery (80.49%), and urinary tract system devices (71.95%), respectively. The most practiced management processes of used single-use medical devices included validation of the sterilization process (100%), the inspection of reprocessed single-use medical devices (90.24%), proper storage of reprocessed single-use medical devices (89.02%), the packaging of reprocessed single-use medical devices (87.80%) and the reprocessing area for single-use medical devices (68.29%). The least practiced management processes included informed written consent from the patients to reuse single-use medical devices (4.88%), authorization allowing the reuse of single-use medical devices (7.22%), the distribution of reprocessed single-use medical devices (7.22%), forming a billing schedule of single-use medical devices (7.22%), and identifying when to discard the reused single-use medical devices (13.41%). The cleaning of used single-use medical devices was one step of the management process which was not practiced properly by all hospitals.

Conclusion: The study results indicate that it is necessary to develop guidelines for reprocessing single-use medical devices and monitoring the practices of responsible personnel, especially regarding the cleaning process and deciding when to discard the devices.

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Attitude, Subjective Norm, Perceived Behavioral Control and Intention of Fathers to Encourage Breastfeeding

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Background: Breastfeeding is necessary and useful for babies, as well as for mothers, society and the nation. Fathers are also a factor that is important for successful breastfeeding.

Objective: The purpose of this descriptive correlational research study was to explore attitudes, subjective norm, perceived behavioral control and intention of fathers to encourage breastfeeding.

Methods: The subjects were selected following the inclusion criteria and consisted of 102 expectant fathers who brought their 37–40 weeks pregnant wives to the antenatal care unit at Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai or Chiang Mai Health Promotion Hospitals from December 2013 to January 2014. The assessment tool measured four aspects: attitude, subjective norm, perceived behavioral control and intention of fathers to encourage breastfeeding of Harwood based on the theory of planned behavior and was translated into Thai language by Preeyakamon Lertrakannon, Kannika Kantaruksa and Nantaporn Sansiriphun. Descriptive statistics and Spearman's product moment correlation were used to analyze the data.

Results: Fathers’ attitudes toward encourage breastfeeding had a high positive correlation with fathers, intention to encourage breastfeeding (r = 0.748, p < 0.01). Fathers’ subjective norm and fathers’ perceived behavioral control to encourage breastfeeding had moderate positive correlation with fathers’ intention to encourage breastfeeding (r = 0.326, r = 0.438, p < 0.01 respectively).

Conclusion: These findings suggest that fathers’ intention to encourage breastfeeding and the relative factors should be assessed to enhance father’s encouragement of appropriate breastfeeding.

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