Caregivers’ Management for Children with Asthma*

Apwan Nookong, PhD¹, Sudaporn Payakkaraung, PhD¹, Yuwadee Pongsaranuntakul, MA¹, Siriwan Chudapongse, BSc²

Abstract

Purpose: To examine caregivers’ management for children with asthma.

Design: Descriptive study.

Methods: A sample of 287 caregivers of children with asthma was recruited by convenience sampling. Data were collected using the Caregiver Management Questionnaire containing 29 items with 5-point rating scale and 5 open-ended questions; and were analyzed using Pearson’s product moment correlation coefficient and content analysis.

Main findings: The results revealed that the mean age of caregivers was 41.35 years, family income was 22,031.01 bath/month. Average months of experience in care for children with asthma was 81.35 months. Caregivers often performed asthma management for their children (X = 3.07, SD = .55) with the highest score found in the communication subscale (X = 3.46, SD = .69), and the lowest in medication adherence subscale (X = 2.25, SD = .98). Family income and caregivers’ education were significantly related to caregivers’ management (r = .173, p = .003; and r = .169, p = .004, respectively). Caregivers’ experience about problems in care for children with asthma was presented in 4 themes as follows: 1) medication adherence, 2) environmental management, 3) asthma symptoms monitoring and attacks management, and 4) communication. The problem found most in care for the asthmatic children was environmental management (69.92%), followed by medication adherence (28.57%).

Conclusion and recommendations: Nurses should examine caregivers’ knowledge, and asthma management for children. In addition, nurses should explore problems and barriers to asthma management of caregivers and families members, which will be used as essential information for promoting asthma management interventions to caregivers and family members.

Keywords: asthma, barriers, caregivers, children, management

* This research project was funded by Mahidol University

¹ Faculty of Nursing, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand
² Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand