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ABSTRACT

This research project was designed to replicate the study of Brodt & Stroilge (1986) to investigate the attitudes of nurses toward computers in clinical practice. The growth of information technology in health-care service in Hong Kong initiates a need to understand nurses' attitudes toward computerization. In this study a sample of 52 nurses working in an intensive care unit where a computerized patient- data record system was implemented two years ago was surveyed. These nurses presented various attitudes to the computerization process and demonstrated different adaptation. These raised the incentive of the researcher to measure what factors would influence nurses' computer-related attitudes. A self-reported questionnaire survey was administered.

Nurses' attitudes toward computerization was measured by the instrument developed by Brodt & Stronge (1985). Demographic data such as age, nurses' experience, qualification, years of using computers, years working in an institution, job title were also collected.

The results revealed that nurses' computer-related attitudes, half of the sample (n=26) were favorable and half of the sample (n=26) were unfavorable to computers, no significant differences were found related to the above demographic data.

While computers become more and more popular in Hong Kong, everyone views computers as common equipment and are accepted by various classes in the society. To provide computer knowledge, training program, staffs' involvement in planning phase and administrative support can make the success of computerization.