ABSTRACT

Knowledge Attitude And Practice Among Practical Nurses Caring
For Elderly Clients in Jamaica, January to March 1999

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The knowledge attitude and practice of Practical Nurses who cared
for elderly clients were studied over an eight weeks period in selected
parishes in Jamaica.

In the study all the respondents were females in the age range 20 to
59 years. Most of the respondents were single and the highest numbers
attained the Secondary School education standard. The highest numbers
of respondents were qualified at the Jamaica School Certificate (J.S.C.)
level. Approximately 81.0% of the respondents were trained as Practical
Nurses. Twenty-five different Practical Nursing Schools were responsible for
the training of the Practical Nurses. Their hours of theory and practical
experiences varied from individual to individual as also the duration of their
training. Most respondents had good knowledge base and their attitude
towards caring for the elderly clients were also good. Most of the
respondents were motivated to care for the elderly clients by the level of
nursing education they attained, while others were motivated by the job itself.

There is need for development or improvement of curriculum for the
training of Practical Nurses and a definite policy towards the regulation of the
training which should ultimately lead to licensure and registration by the
Nursing Council of Jamaica.