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Registered nurse knowledge of the early warning signs of childhood cancer

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DECLARATION

I, Naseerah Raymond, declare that this is my own work. It is being submitted for the degree of Master of Science (Nursing) in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree in any other University.

Signature: _____

Naseerah Raymond

_____ day of_____

Protocol Number: 328655

DEDICATION

I wish to thank Allah for making it possible.

To my loving son Tougheed for his love and support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It's my pleasure to recognise all the wonderful people who assisted me through this long study in making this possible. I want to thank the following:

- My son, Tougheed for his love and understanding why we had to spend lots of time at home until completing my studies.
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- Paediatric Department Prof P Cooper and administrative team with photo stating of all the questionnaires
- The Gauteng Health Department and the City of Johannesburg for allowing me to do my research
- The respondents who agree to participate in the study-without them this study was not possible
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- To Prof L Maree for believing in my study, gave me hope to continue and stayed with me until the end
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- The faculty for offering me this opportunity of a life time.

ABSTRACT

The global burden of cancer has more than doubled in the past 30 years. It is estimated that in 2008, 7 million people worldwide died of cancer. Although the majority of deaths were in adults, 90 000 deaths related to childhood cancers. Childhood cancer comprises all cancers arising in children under the age of 15 years. Cancer in children is fairly rare and globally it is estimated that 160 000 children will be diagnosed with cancer each year (World Health Organization, 2008). Early detection is a fundamental goal in oncology nursing as it provides for early treatment of cancers. The onset in children's cancers is generally short and if not detected early can grow fast and aggressively. Children's tumours tend to be more invasive but have a better response to treatment in comparison to adults' cancer. The purpose of this study is to explore the knowledge of registered nurses practicing at primary health clinics situated in the Johannesburg metropolis regarding the early warning signs of childhood cancer.

An exploratory research strategy would be used and a contextual study will be done. The context of the study will be Johannesburg and specifically the primary health clinics in the metropolis. A quantitative survey will be conducted. The population targeted is all registered nurses practicing in the 35 primary health clinics in the Johannesburg Metropolis Region B, D, E, F and D. A census will be done and a self-administered questionnaire will be used to gather self-report data. The data will be analyzed by means of descriptive statistics.

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