

Thesis Title            Legal Liability in Health Services provision of  
                         Sub-district (tambon) Health Officers

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#### ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study was to evaluate the performance of Sub-district health center workers. This performance measurement was based on the Ministry of Public Health Regulations and Laws on primary medical care, where these workers might have legal responsibilities in case they performed their duties improperly or exceeding their functions provided by the laws. The main rationale for this study was to generate some base line data which would help the Ministry of Public Health better regulation, the performance of Sub-district health center workers, and there by preventing these workers from committing unlawful acts.

A total of 391 Sub-district health workers spread throughout the whole country were included in the study. The methods of selection were proportional stratified random sampling and simple random sampling. Once selectal, an open and closed ended questionnaire was mailed to each of the 391 workers. Ninety-three percent were

completed and returned. The questionnaire included indexes on primary medical care, immunization, first aid, obstetrics, family planning, dentistry and drug dispensing practices.

It was found that the respondents' practices in many cases did not follow the Ministry of Public Health Regulations' guidelines. The result of the questionnaire showed that the primary medical care, drug dispensing, obstetrics, family planning and dentistry practices were incorrect. In addition, some demographic and job factors (sex, age, marital status, position, education and distance to nearest hospital) were found to be significantly different when the primary medical care practices index was examined.

On drug dispensing it was found that sex, marital status, education, region and medical service through radio communication were significantly different. ( $P < 0.05$ )

In term of Sub-District health workers practice with out permission, they may get criminal or civil liability in the same way as the professional does. Beside, they might have legal responsibilities according to Law on Profession Control as well.

In conclusion it is suggested that first, the Ministry of Public Health provide better training to Sub-district health workers on primary medical care practices guidelines. Second, that the Ministry should provide better drug and medical instruments support to Sub-district health centers. Third, that the Ministry provide more financial and personnel support to Sub-district health centers. Especially the Ministry of Public Health should provide Regulations clearly for Sub-district health workers.