

Thesis Title Public Attitudes and Acceptance on Brain Death Criteria
 of The Thai Medical Council for Decision on Death

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ABSTRACT

This studying tries to find out the public attitudes and acceptance on brain death criteria of The Thai Medical Council by surveying the idea of doctors, lawyers, priests and lay people group who live in Bangkok Metropolitan area and study about legal problems concerning the application of such criteria in medical practice because the usage of "brain death" criteria of The Thai Medical Council for determination of death of a potential donor in organ transplantation services is a new concept of death in Thai society. People of each group are requested to answer the questions in questionnaire form. All datas were collected and statistically analysed.

The study revealed that the majority of the population hesitated to agree with this criteria. The acceptability rate among the population is 56.8 % of acceptance and 43.2 % of unacceptance. In

case of divided into various groups, the attitudes and acceptance of every group are statistically significantly different from each other ($P < 0.0001$). The doctors' group is the most agreeable and accepted in criteria, followed by the other groups i.e. lawyers, lay people and priests.

For the population characteristics that had impact on public attitudes and acceptance on brain death criteria, people who were different in religion, education, and work experience had statistically significant difference in attitudes and acceptance ($P < 0.0001$). But people who were different in sex, and age had no statistically difference in attitudes and acceptance ($P > 0.05$).

For study on legal problem concerning the usage of brain death criteria, it can be concluded that :

1. Diagnosis of death is the responsibility of the medical problem, and physicians are the responsible persons who can legally diagnose and make decision on death of the patients.

2. The usage of brain death criteria by physicians is the responsibility of the medical profession according to the professional standard proclaimed by The Thai Medical Council. So, the physicians who follow the above regulation on brain death criteria in their practices are considered to be protected from professional liability.

3. Uncertainty on the time of death in the brain death criteria might cause problem in some inheritance's right cases. So, it was recommended that there should be a legal review and improvement on this issue.

Although physicians who use the brain death criteria above, seem to be well protected legally in term of professional liability, however, the majority the whole studied groups recommended that the above criteria should be made into law in order to be fair to the medical profession and to be well accepted by the public.