

Thesis Title Patterns of Drug Behaviors of Diabetes Mellitus Patients

Name Noppawan Asawarat

Degree Master of Arts
 (Medical and Health Social Sciences)

Thesis Supervisory Committee

Prasit Leerapan, B.Sc., M.Ed.

(Education Research)

Preecha Upayokin, M.A., Ph.D.

Paibul Suriyawongpaisal, M.D., MM.Sc.

Date of Graduation 9 December B.E. 2536 (1993)

Abstract

This study aims to determine the patterns of drug behaviors of diabetic mellitus patients which affected patients' self-care behaviors and treatment. This study also assessed factors affecting drug-taking behaviors. A total of 20 patients who attend the out patient clinic of a hospital in Ayutthaya, were select for this case-study research. The data were collected through in depth interviewing in a 5-month period.

The results of this study revealed 3 type of drug-taking behaviors :

1. Patients would use medicines only prescribed by the doctor from the hospital, and did not abuse these medications. The factors affecting this drug-taking behavior include condition of illness, perception and belief of illness corresponding to biomedical theory, experience of drug use, satisfaction with healer services and family social support.

2. Patients would use herbal drugs in addition to the hospital medicine, and believed strongly in the effectiveness of herbal drugs. The factors affecting this drug-taking behavior include social and economic factors, age affecting beliefs, condition of illness, perception and beliefs about illness, the experience of drug use and family social support.

3. Patients would sometimes use herbal drugs in addition to the hospital medicines, although they lacked confidence in the therapeutic effectiveness of these drugs. The factors affecting this drug-taking behavior included condition of illness, perception and beliefs about illness, experience of drug use and family social support. Patients expressed belief in the greater effectiveness of hospital medicine than herbal drugs as a supplement to the doctor-prescribed treatment.

Finally, the results also revealed that physical exercise is not important for patients, and they reported that their willingness to take herbal drugs was often related to their desire to maintain interpersonal relationships with persons who recommend this drugs.