

Independent Study Title : Factors Affecting Alternative Use of Health
Care Services by Malaria Patients : A Case
(Study of Huai Tom Village, Tambon Nasai, Li
District, Lamphun Province

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Abstract

This study of the factors affecting health-care decision-making by malaria patients in Huai Tom Village, Tambon Nasai, Li District, Lamphun Province had the following objectives. These were to study demographic, socio-economic, and socio-psychological factors as well as how the patients determine which course of treatment to adopt. Another objective was to determine the characteristics of the different sources of medical care for different types of disease. These sources, both inside and outside the public health care system, were studied to determine whether and to what extent patients made their treatment decisions. This study found that malaria patients followed a 3-4 stage decision-making process. Each stage comprises several different related factors. Following a testing of the

importance of different factors affecting malaria treatment choices by the Weaver Combination Method, it was found that the most important factors operated differently at each stage. Furthermore, at stages 1-3, malaria patients selected modern medical resources. However, at stage 4, they selected traditional medicine more often.