

Thesis Title The Study of Essential and Non-essential
Drug Utilization of Out-patients in
University Hospital, Central Hospital
and General Hospital in Songkhla in 1993

Name Sudaruk Leu

Degree Master of Science (Pharmacy)

Thesis Supervisory Committee

 Cha-onsin Sooksriwongse, Dr.PH.

 Suwit Wibulpolprasert, M.D., Board of
 Preventive Medicine (Public Health)

 Supachai Sangrattanagul, M.S.

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ABSTRACTS

Essential drugs, played a very important role in the overall health of the population. A survey using questionnaires and prescriptions was carried out to determine the extent use and acceptability of the National List of Essential Drugs in Thailand 1992 among the physicians in Songklanakarin University Hospital, Hat-Yai Hospital and Songkhla Hospital.

Analysis of prescriptions showed that the out-patient pattern of three hospitals was similar. Male, age less than 1 year old, low income and be supported drug expenditure by government were the group patients who usually recieved essential drugs. The utilization of non-essential drugs in the disease

group musculo-skeletal system and complication of pregnancy were usually dispensed. The non-essential drugs in group antihistamines and muscle relaxants were usually dispensed both described in terms of frequency and value. The ratio of essential drug utilization in three hospitals was not under the regulation of Ministry of Public Health.

Analysis of physicians' opinions showed that patient's payment, drug administration regimen and dosage form effected the prescribing habit. The cheap price, an acceptable quality and being a policy of Ministry of Public Health were the reasons made physicians chose essential drugs. The reasons that limited prescribing of essential drugs were: uncovering all diseases, restriction physician's freedom and maldistribution of information.

The concept of essential drugs was not wellknown among practicing physicians. The means to achieve this objective were discussed in this research.