

Thesis title Factors Effecting the Use of Traditional
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ABSTRACT

This comparative cross-sectional study was done in Prachinburi Province to identify factors affecting the decision of out-patients on using traditional medicine clinics at the Community Hospital. All together there were 279 respondents interviewed in this study. Those are out-patients of the traditional medicine clinics and systematic randomized samples of every fifteen out-patients from the western clinics. The respondents were interviewed about socio-demographic characteristics, disease-pattern and health seeking behavior, knowledge, perception and practice on using of traditional medicine for treatment.

Some characteristics of socio-demographic factors such as age, occupation, education, economic status and travelling distance significantly influence the patients decision for selecting traditional medicine clinics. People in middle age, with higher education and better economic

status preferred to use traditional medicine for the treatment of their illness. Other characteristics such as sex, means of transportation and travelling time did not significantly associated with the health services outlet selection.

The severity of present illness also affected the patient's choice for selecting the type of health service either the traditional clinic or the western clinic. The patients suffering from milder form of diseases preferred to attend traditional medicine clinic.

The most frequent reason to choose traditional medicine clinical service was due to suggestion from other people such as family members, neighbors or physicians and another reason was previous experience on using traditional medicine.

Knowledge, perception and practice of using traditional medicine influenced strongly the patients decision for selecting traditional service in Community Hospitals. The knowledge, perception and practice of traditional medicine have positive inter-relationship; however the relationship between the knowledge and the practice was found to be very weak.

It is recommended that the knowledge and perception of the patients should be enhanced in order to bring about further improvement in the practice of traditional medicine, as they effect the decision making on the utilization.