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SASITHORN LAUHAKHUN:COST ANALYSIS OF TUBERCULOSIS LABORATORY
INVESTIGATION AT THE TUBERCULOSIS CENTER ZONE 12 FOR THE 1997 FISCAL YEAR.

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Laboratory investigation services represent one of the most important activities for identifying new tuberculosis cases and for treatment follow-up. The Tuberculosis Division of the Communicable Disease Control Department is responsible for providing funds for such activities through the zonal Tuberculosis centers and community hospitals. It is therefore, necessary for the health planners to understand the patterns funds being spent for each laboratory services. The purpose of this study is to carry out a cost analysis of tuberculosis laboratory investigation at the Tuberculosis Center Zone 12 for the 1997 fiscal year.

All sections of the Tuberculosis Center Zone12 involved in laboratory services were classified into 6 cost centers : the Director of Tuberculosis center zone 12, Clerical Work & Finance, Supplies & Vehicle, Operational support and Evaluating, Social Worker for Medicine and the Laboratory unit. Services were classified into 7 activities. Collected labour costs, material costs and capital costs to calculate direct costs and indirect costs. To determine the full cost of laboratory investigation direct costs were summed with indirect costs allocated from related cost centers according to appropriate cost allocation criteria. The full cost of each activity was then divided by the total number of types of services to obtain the unit cost. It is found that the unit costs for Auramine stain and Ziehl-Neelsen stain were 211 Baht and 438 Baht, respectively. The unit costs for Sputum culture, Lowenstein-Jensen medium, Fasting Blood Sugar determination, Urine sugar test and Blood preparation for Anti- HIV and chemistry were found to be 130 Baht, 20 Baht, 341 Baht, 46 Baht, and 55 Baht, respectively. The ratio of the average labour costs , material costs and capital costs was 6 : 1.5 : 1 respectively.