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INFORMATION

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THE PHARMACY AND THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE.** THESIS ADVISORS:
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The objective of this survey research was to know the characteristics and the processes of using information by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (PTC) of the general hospital of Thailand. Data collection was done from December 1996 to January 1997. A self-administered questionnaire was sent to the head of the pharmacy department of every general hospital in Thailand (n=72). The study variables covered characteristics and processes of information use, PTC performance, and general characteristics of PTC. The response rate was 72.22 % (n=52). Descriptive statistics were used for most data analysis. Spearman's rho correlation coefficient was used to determine the relationship between variables.

Results of the study showed that for drug selection meetings, mainly general information of drugs was prepared but mainly economic and therapeutic information was used in the decision making process. A positive correlation was found between the amount of information prepared and the use of information. Information from drug companies was the major source of 40 hospitals (76.9%), followed by person-experience (n=36, 72.0%). Inadequate sources of update information were cited as the major problem in 43 hospitals (82.7%). The frequency of PTC meetings was 3-4 times per year in 33 hospitals (63.5%), and 1-2 times per year in 15 hospitals (28.3). Meeting preparation, climate of the meetings, member's behavior in the meetings were ranked as moderate to good quality. The prepared meeting document was of good quality but members did not pay much attention to it. A positive relationship was found between amount of academic information and the level of interest by members. The quality of PTC performance, was rated as moderate to good: however, the quality of educational activity and drug use monitoring were rated as moderate to bad. The problem about repeated generic names was rated as moderate to severe in most hospitals (42 hospital, 86.5 %). The problem of lack of use of some drugs in stock was rated as moderate and was negatively correlated with the frequencies of drug selection meetings. Fifty-four percent (n=28) of the hospitals claimed that they have rational drug use.