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POUKWAN NORSAVAN: CONVERSION OF ANTIMICROBIALS FROM
INTRAVENOUS TO ORAL ROUTE. THESIS ADVISORS: BUSBA
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662-734-1.

Intravenous to oral route conversion, a change of full course intravenous drug treatment to partially oral administration in a suitable time, is one concept suggested to reduce health care cost but retain the best clinical outcome. The study was conducted to influence the timing of when doctors convert patients from the intravenous route to the oral route of antimicrobial administration and assess the economic impact. Medical charts of patients admitted to 2 medical wards at Ramathibodi Hospital were reviewed. Eighty-three patients and 80 patients were included in 12-week periods of Phase I and Phase II study, respectively. Patients were evaluated in both phases of the study for the eligibility for route conversion. Interventions were performed by educating medical residents (doctors) in a formal 30-minute meeting before Phase II study and by direct consulting with individual medical resident during Phase II study. The results showed that 77.9% and 83.0% of patients in Phase I and Phase II study, respectively, were eligible to route conversion. There were 28.4% of patients in Phase I study who were appropriately converted and the percentage was increased to 60.3% in Phase II study. Mean \pm S.D. days of intravenous antimicrobials were 8.1 \pm 4.4 days in Phase I study and 6.1 \pm 3.7 days in Phase II study. Total potential cost saving in Phase I study was 68,005 Baht and in Phase II study it was 15,675 Baht. It is concluded that the criteria used in this study for converting patients from intravenous to oral route could result in cost savings.