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TRAN THI LUU: HEALTH CENTER CURATIVE SERVICE UTILIZATION IN A COMMUNE OF VINHTUONG DISTRICT OF VINHPHUC PROVINCE, VIETNAM. THESIS ADVISORS: JUNYA PATTARA ARECHACHAI Sc.D., JAREET JANRASAMEEWILAI M.D., KANITTHA NIATPATTANA M.Sc., 60 P. ISBN 974 - 662 - 163 - 7

This study was conducted with the aim of identifying the utilization of curative service in a commune health center by people in Ngukien commune of Vinhtuong district, Vinhphuc province, Vietnam. The subjects of this study were 200 heads of households, who were currently living in Ngukien commune of Vinhtuong district. A cross sectional descriptive study was conducted in March 1999 in Ngukien commune to find out the rate of utilization of curative service of the health center. The respondents were interviewed by using a structured questionnaire.

The results of the study are presented in two ways. The descriptive part is expressed by frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation and inferential statistics are showed by t-test, crosstab and Chi-squa test. The results reveal that 81% of respondents usually used commune health center when family members had health problems. 35.8% of the sick persons choose commune health center on the first treatment. The result also shows that the attitude score for the rare utilization group was significantly lower than that of the frequent utilization group (p value < 0.05). However, there was no significant association between socio-demographic characteristics of respondents and utilization of curative service. Statistics showed that the utilization of curative service in commune health center was significantly associated with perceived severity of illness and age of sick persons (p value < 0.05). Based on the findings of this study, the utilization of curative service is related to attitude of respondents and should be integrated with knowledge of respondents towards health center service. The quality of service and working time should be improved because quality of care is an essential factor in all health services to achieve the goal of health for all.