

Thesis Title	Cost Analysis of Hospice Care For HIV/AIDS Patients in Thailand: A Community-Based Model of HIV/AIDS Care
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ABSTRACT

Objective: The aim of this study was to identify types of care provided for HIV/AIDS patients in a hospice and the cost of hospice care at Wat Prabat Nampu in Lopburi province, Thailand.

Methods: Cost data was collected retrospectively from financial records during the period of 1996 and analyzed qualitatively by using economic tools. The cost was calculated to present its present value using a discount rate of 12 %. Other data for identifying types of care in the hospice were collected prospectively through interviewing HIV/AIDS patients as well as their caregivers and observing activities in the hospice from March to May 1997.

Results: Total cost of care for HIV/AIDS patients at the hospice in 1996 was 11,869,574 baht (US\$ 474,382.96). with 678 in-patients and 1392 out-

patient visits. The results of the unit costs obtained in this study were as follows: The unit cost per inpatient care was 16,923.91 baht (US\$ 676.96) with the average length of stay of 8.2 days. The unit cost per out-patient visit was 276.7 baht (US\$ 11.06). The unit cost per day was 2,063.89 baht (US\$ 82.55) for in-patients. Three most beneficial types of care and support identified in the study were mental care, social support and housing, food, and material support. The study found that wide ranges of care and support were provided for HIV/AIDS patients in the hospice with a comprehensive approach.

Conclusion: This hospice plays a significant role in providing comprehensive care and support for HIV/AIDS patients at a community level. The types of care and support identified in this study were essential care for HIV/AIDS patients and should be available for all HIV/AIDS patients in Thailand. The study proposes an ideal model of community-based care for HIV/AIDS patients through developing a good referral system and mobilizing health personnel in the existing health care system. This study also provides essential information for managing the cost of care for HIV/AIDS patients in a non-hospital setting. The result of the study has the potential to be applied to other similar hospice care in Thai communities.