

4036987 PYPA/M : MAJOR: PHARMACY ADMINISTRATION: M.Sc. inPharm
(PHARMACY ADMINISTRATION)

KEY WORDS : STANDARD/ PHARMACY AND THERAPUETIC
COMMITTEE/ DRUG SELECTION/ ANTIHYPERTENSIVE
DRUGS

PRATHAN LUECHA: STANDARD PROCEDURE OF THE PHARMACY AND
THERAPEUTIC COMMITTEE IN ANTIHYPERTENSIVE DRUG SELECTION
FOR HOSPITALS USE. THESIS ADVISORS: NOPDOL THONGNOPNUA, Ph.D.,
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The objective of this study was to construct a standard procedure for the pharmacy and therapeutic committee (PTC) in antihypertensive drug selection for hospital use. This study was conducted in four stages: Standard setting, standard arrangement, standard testing and standard improvement. Delphi was used in standard setting to find appropriate standards proposed by a panel of experts. Based on the draft of standards obtained, a self-administrated questionnaire was designed for testing. The questionnaires were sent to 30 physicians and 30 pharmacists drawn from 30 regional or general hospitals. The response rate was 68.33% (n=41). Data from the standard testing were used to improve and refine standard draft by eight experts. The final standard procedure then completed.

The results of this study concluded, five expected outcomes and five procedures for antihypertensive drug selection as follows: Information searching, pre-submission drug use, considering the information, decision making on drug addition and decision making on drug deletion. In addition, there were 12 general criteria and 6 groups of specific criteria, for drug selection. In standard testing, more than 65% of respondents agreed with four processes of the draft of standard procedure. The pre-submission drug use process was agreed with at 29.3%. The expert panel in standard improvement stage suggested the deletion of pre-submission drug use from the standard procedure and adjusted the scoring system of some criteria according to suggestions and comments from respondents and three experts in pharmacology in the standard testing stage. Four groups of specific criteria were changed to the new general criteria. The standard procedure consisted of four processes, information searching, consideration of information, decision making on drug addition and decision making on drug deletion that related to the expected outcomes in standard setting stage. This standard was established for the PTC in general or regional hospitals to be used as a tool for selecting antihypertensive drugs. However, it was only used to select antihypertensive drugs by generic name and which had not been used in the hospitals before. So, after the generic selection, PTC had to select trade name for each gener again. The standard procedure for trade name selection and using standard procedure to select drugs in the hospitals were recommended for future studies.