

**THE STUDY ON THE CAUSES OF DEATH OF PEOPLE IN  
MAEJAI DISTRICT, PHAYAO PROVINCE**



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for the Degree of Master of Public Health in Health System Development**

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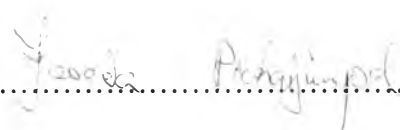
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The study aimed to compare consistency of causes of death as specified in death certificate and causes of death as diagnosed by physicians. The target population was 250 decedents of population in Maejai District, Phayao Province, who died during October 1, 2000 – September 30, 2001, using death certificate as the major information. The collection of decedent's information that had no treatment record was done by interview of decedent's relatives. The collection of those that had their treatment records at Maejai Hospital was done from the treatment profile. Then the physician diagnosed causes of death of those decedents in ICD-10 code. Kappa coefficient analysis was used to determine correlation.

Results showed that only 58.4% of the 250 deaths were reported by a physician, And only 55.78% consistency between causes of death in the certificate and physician diagnosis, showing low agreement ( $r = 0.461$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ) The top three causes of death according to death certificate and physician diagnosis was also different. Heart attack, the top cause of death according to death certificate (37.76%), was not on the list of top causes of death by physician diagnosis. According to physician diagnosis, AIDS, reported was the second cause of death (23.24%) by the certificate, was the top cause of death in Phayao during the study period, (37.60%). Hypertension that was not on the list of top causes of death was found by physicians to be 4.8% of deaths in Phayao during the study period.

The study indicates inaccuracy of causes of death reported in death certificates in Phayao Province. Even if Phayao is a small province in northern Thailand, this finding should not be much different from most of the provinces of the country. Reporting, accurate causes of death are fundamental to setting up appropriate health development policies, and allocation of scarce health budget, therefore, it must be improved.

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