

**CONTINUING EDUCATION TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF CARE IN THE
MANAGEMENT OF CHILDHOOD ACUTE DIARRHEA PROVIDED BY
PRIVATE PHYSICIANS**

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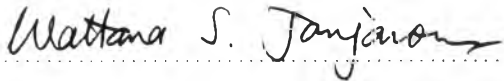
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ABSTRACT

Quality of care provided by private physicians in developing countries has become a matter of attention in recent years. Private physicians constitute major human resource of health care delivery in most countries. Quality of care by private physicians is determined by various factors involving national context such as linkage between public and private sectors and enforcement and existence of regulation, providers' knowledge and attitudes and patient and community demand. There are different interventions to improve quality of care in private physicians. These interventions can be categorized into 3 groups: enforcement of regulation, provider training, and patient/ community education. In this proposal, continuing education program, a provider training method is proposed on the basis of feasibility and evidences of effectiveness from other countries' experiences.

The primary health care management of acute diarrhea under-5 children is selected as the focus of continuing education effort in a suburban district near Yangon in Myanmar. The program will be carried out to study whether continuing education is effective using workshops format is effective to produce intended changes. For the trial of instruments, data exercise was carried out in the outpatient clinic of a district hospital in Ayudtaya Province and in 11 part-time private physicians, who were 9 Myanmars and 2 Cambodians studying in Mahidol University and College of Public Health.

Additional benefits of the proposed program lies on the effective implementation of continuing education workshop as well as formation of an education team which include both Health Department and private physicians, themselves. By the approach through education team and program, there will be professional interaction among peers as well as between private and government sectors making linkage for further cooperation. It can also stimulate the recognition on the need to improve the quality of care that they provide. Those benefits are helpful and supportive to achieve the improvement of health status of the community.

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