

**FACTORS RELATED TO UTILIZATION DIABETES MELLITUS
PATIENTS AT BAN KHAORO HEALTH CENTER THUNG SONG
DISTRICT NAKHON SI THAMMARAT PROVINCE**



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**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Public Health in Health Systems Development**

**College of Public Health
Chulalongkorn University**

Academic Year 2004

ISBN 974-9599-78-0

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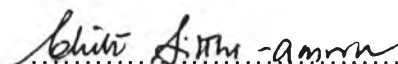
Thesis Title : Factors Related to Utilization Diabetes Mellitus Patients at Ban
Khaoro Health Center Thung Song District Nakhon Si
Thammarat Province

By : Miss Suganya Pumsuwan

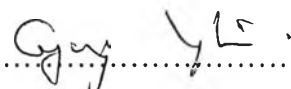
Program : Health Systems Development


Thesis Advisor : Boosaba Sanguanprasit, B.Sc., M.P.H, Ph.D.


Accepted by the College of Public Health, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
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PH: 012311 : MAJOR HEALTH SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
 KEY WORDS : FACTORS RELATED / UTILIZATION / NONINSULIN
 DEPENDENT DIABETES

SUGANYA PUMSUWAN: FACTORS RELATED TO UTILIZATION
 BEHAVIOUR OF NONINSULIN DEPENDENT DIABETES MELLITUS
 PATIENTS AT BAN KHAORO HEALTH CENTER, THUNG SONG
 DISTRICT, NAKHON SI THAMMARAT PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISOR:
 BOOSABA SANGUANPRASIT, B.Sc., Ph.D. 143pp. ISBN 974-9599-78-0

The study was to examine factors related to utilization behaviors of non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus patients at Ban Khaoro health center, Thung Song District, Nakhon - Si - Thammarat Province. The research design was a descriptive research.

The samples consisted of eighty-four patients under the responsible areas of Ban Khaoro health center. All of them were diagnosed as non-insulin dependent diabetics from 1 January to 31 March 2002. The research sites were at Ban Khaoro health center and the patients' houses for the sample group not receiving health care services at the health center. The data were collected by self – administered questionnaires. Statistics used for data analysis were percentage, means, standard deviation, Chi-square, Fisher Exact test, Mann-Whitney U Test. The significant level was set at 0.05.

The results showed that among the total 84 non-insulin dependent diabetics, only 51 diabetics (60.71%) receiving health services at the health center and 33 diabetics (39.29%) refusing the health services. Reasons for receiving health services. The main reasons for those receiving health services at the health center were convenience in transportation (19 diabetics, 37.25%), less expenditure (16 diabetics, 31.38%), service satisfaction (11 diabetics, 21.57%), and close to their houses (5 diabetics, 9.80%). Reasons for refusing health services. The main reasons for those refusing health services included no signs of diabetes (10 diabetics, 30.30%), inconvenience in transportation (7 diabetics, 21.21%), receiving health care services at other health care units (5 diabetics, 15.15%), treatment with herbal medicines (5 diabetics, 15.15%), wrong belief that the diabetes was cured (5 diabetics, 15.15%), and dissatisfaction in services (1 diabetics, 3.04%).

When comparing the differences between the two groups, it was found that there were significant differences in sexes, marital status, occupations, complicating diabetes, knowledge about diabetics, health perception, satisfaction in time, distance and convenience in transportation.

In terms of blood glucose controls, most of the those receiving services at the health center (39 diabetics, 76.48%) could successfully control their blood glucose levels, about 7 (13.72%) could occasionally control their blood glucose levels while only 5 diabetics (9.80%) could not control their blood glucose levels.

It was recommended that Ministry of Public Health should emphasize their policy on special health care for the chronic disease patients at the health centers, particularly diabetes. In addition, the model from the present study can be trail at the health centers, particularly those that are Primary Care Unit (PCU). The information obtained will be useful for the improvement of the health care services, especially for the patients who have the constraints on convenience of traveling to Ban Khaoro health center. This can ensure the high quality and accessible health care services for the communities.

Field of study Health Systems Development

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This dissertation was completely finished with the support and assistance of many people. I was indebted to Associate Professor Dr. Ong-arj Viputsiri, chairperson of thesis committee, Dr. Boosaba Sanguanprasit and Dr. Chaisri Supornsilapachai, thesis committee, for their advice, suggestion, care and expertise. I was also grateful for the honorable experts for their assistance in checking and giving beneficial comments for the improvement of the research instrument

In addition, I would like to express my sincere thank to the Director of Thung Song Hospital, and the health center staff at Ban Khaoro health center for their participation in this research. I also wish to thank the diabetics for their cooperation in the interview and many whom I cannot mention here for their support and assistance.

Most of all, I would like to express my deep appreciation for my parents as well as my three sisters and their families, whose care and love made it possible for me to achieve my goal.

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