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PROGRAMME & ABSTRACTS





Variation in Length of Hospital Stay for Inpatients Dying In Southern Thailand

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This study investigated length of stay (LOS) for patients who died in hospital in Southern Thailand regarding principal diagnosis-demographic and region-hospital size factors. There were 40,498 mortality cases routinely reported to the Ministry of Public Health from 167 hospitals in 14 provinces of Southern Thailand between October 2000 and September 2003. Age was divided into three groups: 0-59 years, 60-74 years and 75 and over. Principal diagnosis was regrouped into nine categories: injuries, digestive diseases, septicemia, other infectious diseases, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, respiratory infection, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and other diseases. The 14 provinces were reduced to seven regions: Chumphon and Ranong (North), Surat Thani (ST), Phangnga, Phuket and Krabi (North West), Nakhon Si Thammarat (NST), Satun and Trang (South West), Songkhla and Phattalung (Central South) and Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat (South East).

Patients with injuries as principal diagnosis had shortest LOS, whereas cancer patients had the longest LOS. Older patients, particularly females, had higher LOS for all diagnoses.

LOS increased with hospital size except in the North and North West. The North region had higher LOS in medium-size hospitals (61- 499 beds) while in the North West medium hospitals had lower LOS. Small hospitals in the South West region had the lowest LOS whereas large hospitals in the North West had the highest.

Reduce hospital resource utilization especially for patients with chronic diseases can be made by provide proper palliative care or allowing patients to select the place for spending their final time of life.

Key words:

Time Spent in Hospital, Hospital Mortality, Cause of Death

