

Fairness in Access to Health Services by Persons with Disabilities

The Fifth National Health Assembly

Having considered the report on the progress in implementing the resolution of the National Health Assembly¹ on the “Fairness in Access to Health Services by Persons with Disabilities”,

Confirming the resolution of the Third National Health Assembly on the creation of the equal access to health services of persons with disabilities,

Acknowledging the results of the implementation of the resolution by concerned agencies as well as problems, obstacles and constraints in some areas of the implementation,

Commending the government for intending to seriously reduce the inequality of benefits and access to health services provided by three health security funds (namely the National Health Security Fund, the Social Security Fund and the Civil Servant Medical Benefit Scheme) and beginning with announcing a policy to treat all emergency patients on March 29, 2012,

Being worried about the direct impacts of the revocation of the Prime Minister’s Office Regulation on the Development of the National Monetary and Financial System for Health Services B.E. 2553 (2010) that resulted in the dissolution of the committee on the development of the national monetary and financial system for health services that was requested to implement Clause 1 of the resolution of the Third National Health Assembly on the creation of the equal access to health services of persons with disabilities and thus eliminated the mechanism to implement the resolution and,

Being concerned that many clauses of the resolution have not been implemented to create the equal access to health services of persons with disabilities and the implementation of the resolution has not been accelerated to achieve expected concrete results and actions as soon as possible,

Has, therefore, adopted the following resolutions to accelerate the creation of the equal access to health services of persons with disabilities:

1. Requesting authorities supervising the National Health Security Fund, the Social Security Fund and the Civil Servant Medical Benefit Scheme to quickly take following actions:

1.1 Creating the fair benefits of medical rehabilitation services in accordance with the Announcement of the Ministry of Public Health on Medical Rehabilitation Services and Expenditure on Medical Treatment, Disability Assisted Devices, and Early Intervention Tools for Persons with Disabilities B.E. 2552 (2009) that covers services, devices, medicines, non-drug medical supplies, and financing system including payment mechanism as well as creating mechanisms to continuously review and improve the benefits, service deliveries and related financing system with participation of people and representatives of the organizations of persons with disabilities,

1.2 Quickly examining and improving laws, rules and regulations to remove the obstacles that block the organizations of persons with disabilities and local administration

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organizations from participating in the provision of services for persons with disabilities and developing relevant and necessary standards and rules, and

1.3 Allowing the National Health Security Office, during the implementation of Clause 1.2, to continue to support such parties as associations and clubs of persons with disabilities in taking part in providing project-based services that cover all disabilities,

2. Requesting the Sirindhorn National Medical Rehabilitation Centre, the Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Public Health to as soon as possible issue “Guidelines for Actions in Accordance with the Announcement of the Ministry of Public Health on Medical Rehabilitation Services and Expenditure on Medical Treatment, Disability-assisted Devices, and Early Intervention Tools for Persons with Disabilities B.E. 2552 (2009)” to support the development of services in accordance with the service items in Ministry of Public Health’s announcement B.E.2552 issuing under Section 20(1) of the Act on the Empowerment and Quality of Life Development of Persons with Disabilities B.E. 2550 (2007), and

3. Requesting the Committee on the Health of Persons with Disabilities to coordinate and support actions in accordance with the resolution of the Third National Health Assembly on the “Equal Access to Health Services of Persons with Disabilities” and this resolution and report progress, problems and obstacles to the Seventh National Health Assembly.