

Community-centered system management for becoming a Rational Drug Use country

The national policy to move the country towards a rational drug use country, aims to organize a system of drugs with the philosophy of putting the community as center, to assure safety for the population when using drugs, to have good quality of life, and to be able to rely on themselves in health matters. The plan is to induce participation of the community, state agencies, and the private sector in the design of a community health system, with a system of monitoring, warning, build health literacy on using drugs rationally, and developing the people to have self-care in the first instance when getting sick

The 12th National Health Assembly,
Have considered the report on Community-centered System Management for Becoming a Rational Drug Use Country¹,

Acknowledging that the policy of rational drug use aims to solve the problem of the drug system in the community in a community-centered sustainable manner, the ideal objectives being that the Thai people enjoy drug-use safety and a good quality of life resulting from using drugs rationally and that Thailand has a secure national health system and supports the implementation of 2nd, 7th, and 8th National Health Assembly resolutions,

Worried that even though people use more services of the hospital and buy less drugs on their own, it was found that more than half are affected from unsafe drug use and encounter problems of drug use at home, something that could have been prevented, including incorrect drug use among children and youth, partly because of individual factors and partly because of environmental factors in the community and that there is no clear inter-connected system ranging from the information system to supervision of drug use in public and private health facilities that could lead to successful solution to the problem of drug system in the community,

Concerned that Thailand still does not have a system of drug data and information management for the people or advice for the people on how to access correct and reliable information, that the public can easily access information on the internet, while there is no complete screening of such information, thus leading to possible death even from use of drugs and other health products, and that the preventable problem of drug use must be managed in an area-based manner at every level, including households and community,

Appreciating that there is now the Primary Healthcare Act B.E. 2562 (2019) which enables people to better access health care and commending the Ministry of Public Health, the National Health Security Office, the Pharmacy Council, the Community Pharmacy Association for their design of primary healthcare services, bringing in up-to-standard drug stores to be service providers, thus helping to promote rational and safe drug use,

Realizing that Thailand needs to have a system which assures safety in drug use and decrease unnecessary drug use within the referral system between health service units by linking data on patients when they go and receive treatment at health service centers both state and private and creating a branding to make people confident that they are receiving good drugs and getting rationality-based treatment, including mechanisms for supervision of drug safety through by-laws of local government organizations, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and Pattaya City Administration to monitor safe drug use and ensure basic health literacy when they get sick, whether or not involving drug use,

Deeming that people must be safe from drug use when receiving service at state or private health service units at every level, that they must be able to access accurate and reliable information

¹ Health Assembly 12/Main 4

1 on drugs, and that they must be able to have basic self-care when they get sick, whether or not
2 requiring drug use.

3 Hereby passes the following resolutions:

4 1. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health, together with other ministries concerned, public
5 and private hospitals and health service units whether of modern or traditional Thai medicine,
6 religious leaders, and volunteers to take action to encourage participation of various organizations in
7 the community, including private stores, in the design of a community health system, raising of
8 awareness and creation of knowledge for community-based rational drug use, making use of the
9 mechanisms of district health boards/area-based Health Security Fund committees, and other health-
10 related committees or involving community rules or the Health Charter as a tool, taking into account
11 modern technology as well as traditional and cultural way of life of the local people;

12 2. Requesting local government organizations at every level, Thailand Health Promotion
13 Foundation, the National Health Security Office, the Food and Drug Administration, Department of
14 Health Service Support, Department of Health, Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative
15 Medicine, Department of Medical Sciences, and every provincial public health office, in
16 cooperation with other agencies and partners concerned, to promote knowledge and provide
17 budgetary support to community models to have a surveillance and warning system, wide-ranging
18 knowledge on rational drug use and primary self-care when sick, and to advocate for the issuance of
19 ordinances/bylaws concerned, including promoting the use of local wisdom, herbal and Thai
20 traditional medicine, organizing forums for exchange of knowledge and their expansion to every
21 community;

22 3. Requesting the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science,
23 Research and Innovation, and the Ministry of Public Health, in cooperation with national and local
24 agencies and partners, to develop and disseminate accessible, easy-to-understand and practical
25 knowledge on rational drug use, to put in place community forums for exchange of learning,
26 involving all components of the community, on rational drug use in line with the community way of
27 life, and to encourage formal and non-formal education institutions to develop community-based
28 rational drug use programmes, taking into account the community culture and way of life, especially
29 schools for senior citizens, together with a process designed to promote drug use literacy at every
30 level of instruction, an in-school drug management system, health literacy programme, and model
31 schools, together with their monitoring and assessment;

32 4. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health, local government organizations at every level,
33 the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), and the Ministry of
34 Digital Economy and Society to take action to control, supervise and monitor law-enforcement of
35 inappropriate advertisements on drug use and work with Thai Health Promotion Foundation, Thai
36 Media Fund, Public Relations Department, other medias and networks at every level and to promote
37 knowledge, media material and budgetary support for every branch of media, thus enabling them to
38 transfer knowledge and create awareness to the general public of every generation and population
39 group and operators, as well as providing reliable and easily accessible sources of information to the
40 public;

41 5. Requesting public and private health service units at every level to take action to ensure
42 rational drug use in every population group and develop toward becoming health-literate
43 organizations with regard to rational drug use, and to develop an information-linking system on the
44 patients' drug use in a concrete manner, with the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Interior
45 and the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society to design a system linking patients' history of
46 treatment and drug use in public and private health service units of every level, equipped with an
47 effective system of access to information and confidentiality;

- 1 6. Requesting public and private agencies responsible for the health security system, i.e.
2 National Health Security Office (NHSO), Comptroller General’s Department, Social Security
3 Office, Office of Insurance Commission, and Thai Life Assurance Association, to consider
4 supporting the system supervising and monitoring drug dispensation to be in line with rational drug
5 use guidelines and drug use in the National List of Essential Medicines;
- 6 7. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health, together with other ministries concerned, to
7 specify agencies specially tasked with effective systemic management to promote rational drug use
8 at every level as national mechanisms;
- 9 8. Requesting the Food and Drug Administration, together with the Department of Medical
10 Sciences, to develop the database of surveillance and warning on drugs and health products that the
11 community can use to verify their safety and that provides accurate, reliable and easily accessible
12 information;
- 13 9. Requesting the Food and Drug Administration, together with drug manufacturers and
14 importers, to develop in a speedy manner mechanisms designed to supervise pharmaceutical
15 products, taking into account the public use of drugs and their application in the health system,
16 including their monitoring, traceability, review of drug formulation and inspection of correct drug
17 identity;
- 18 10. Requesting the Ministry of Public Health, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign
19 Affairs, to take action on rational drug use in provinces along the border with neighboring countries,
20 including cooperation with international organizations in taking care of refugees in rational drug
21 use;
- 22 11. Requesting the Secretary-General of the National Health Commission to report progress
23 on these resolutions to the 14th National Health Assembly.