

Thailand targets 2500 primary care units by 2021

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In an attempt to provide Thai people with access to quality medical services Primary Health System Act plans 3 doctors per citizen as family physician and primary health care provider



Thailand's Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) revealed the progress of implementation according to the Primary Health System Act 2019 - 2020, and has registered service units and opened 1,991 units in 12 health districts nationwide in 2020. By this, MOPH set targets to increase to 2,500 units including Bangkok by 2021 to increase access, add equality to equipped with intellectual weapons. These efforts emphasize 'doctor at home' and reinforces holistic health care for all age groups, from pregnancy to the elderly.

Dr. Kiattaphum Wongrajit, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health who was a part of Primary Health System Committee meeting said that Mr. Anutin Charvirakul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health As Chairman of the Primary Health System Committee has given importance to driving the primary health system by strengthening the primary health system in which all Thai people must have 3 doctors as their own doctors, including home doctors (Or Sor.), Public health doctors (primary health personnel in Hospital / Municipality / Warm Clinic, etc.) and family doctor (family physician). This development at primary care units will support the universal health insurance system (30 baht, treatment everywhere) to provide access to quality medical services to the people and reduces the disparity of service units.

Dr. Kiattaphum continued that in the past 2020, there are 1,991 primary care units and primary care unit networks in 12 health districts, covering 19,626,529 people, or 29.26 percent. Primary care and primary care network is based on the Primary Health System Act in which 2,500 units covering 25 million people will be cared by family physicians and primary health care providers (3 doctors) in addition to enhancing knowledge for people who have been trained in the field of health, such as public health volunteers (MCS), prison health volunteers (Or Sor E), and to receive additional short-term training in the primary health of the Office of the Permanent Secretary of Public Health. This will develop more expertise and support family physicians and public health workers in the care of public health and makes working in primary health care more comprehensive and effective.