

THE DEMAND FOR OTOLARYNGOLOGICAL MANPOWER:
A CASE STUDY IN NAKHON NAYOK PROVINCE,
THAILAND

by

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ABSTRACT

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This study examines the demand for Ear, Nose and Throat doctors and substitution personnel in Nakhon Nayok Province, Thailand, based on the referral system. A field survey was conducted to test a model for estimating this demand.

Based upon the results of this study, it is concluded that:

1) Though most people are correctly diagnosed there is red tape in getting health services from government facilities. Therefore, they prefer medicine from drug stores or packaged drugs for self-treatment.

2) Otolaryngological diseases are not serious but they require several visits a year to a physician.

3) It was estimated that 84 otolaryngologists were needed, or a team to care for otolaryngological patients in Nakhon Nayok that should comprise 2 otolaryngologists, 11 general physicians, 64 nurses, and 630 village health volunteers. In this case 84 otolaryngologists can be substituted by 2 otolaryngologists, 11 general physicians, 64 nurses and 630 village health volunteers. Thus, we would place 2 otolaryngologists in the provincial hospital, 5 or 6 general physi-

cians at each district hospital, approximately 1 nurse at each of the subdistrict health stations and 1 or 2 village health volunteers for each village.

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