

**COMMUNITY-BASED INTERVENTION TO IMPROVE
HYPERTENSION MANAGEMENT IN THAILAND**

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**A thesis in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy**

Centre for Cardiovascular and Chronic Care

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July 2015

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGINAL AUTHORSHIP

I certify that the work in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged in the text.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself has been acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This thesis represents not only my PhD work; it is a milestone in more than three years of learning and growing at the University of Technology, Sydney. Foremost, I am deeply thankful to my principal supervisor, Professor Patricia Mary Davidson for continuous support me in every moment during these past three years. In 2011, the first time I met Professor Patricia Mary Davidson, I felt the power encouragement from her. Thank you for all the opportunities that she always gives me. She is an excellent supervisor who coaches, cares, and empowers. I would never have been able to finish my PhD work without her guidance.

I would like to thank my co-supervisors, Dr Louise Hickman and Professor Debra Jackson for all their support. I would also like to thank Dr Michelle DiGiacomo as my last co-supervisor for supporting and helping me along with the qualitative study. My special thanks to Dr Phillip Newton, Dr Sungwon Chang, and all the staff Centre for Cardiovascular and Chronic Care. I would also like to thank Dr Terry Royce, Professor Tony Moon, Priya Nair, Jane Van Balen, Graduate Research School and the UTS library for supporting and conducting the useful sessions to support my PhD journey. Thanks to Dr Chakra Budathoki and Ajarn Thitipong Tankumpuan for their supervision of statistical analysis. In addition, I would like to special thank my master degree's supervisor Associate Professor Siriorn Sindhu for all previous valuable advice.

I am also thankful to the study participants, the Directors, and staffs of Huatale Primary Care Health Centre for their great support and cooperation in conducting the data collection.

Many thanks to all my supportive friends in the Faculty of Health, Penny, Dessie, Hiba, Vijay, Linna, Sarah, Dr Caleb, Dr Ponndara, Melanie and all my friends in research student room for always being with me when I was pleased or depressed. I also thank you to all my Thai friends here to bring me out for getting a fresh air outside the office. I would like to thank my landlord Arin Jintana for her kindness.

Thank you to all my former colleges at Suranaree University of Technology for encouraging and pushing me up to more than I can be. Thank you my sister Emon Chunchakrattakul for all sincerely support and always concern about my health during PhD period. I truly thank Dr Chanick Wangphanich and her family for emotional support and being with me when I was in trouble.

I would love to give my thankful gratitude to my wonderful family my dad, Pongsak Anurung, my mom Runnapa Anurung (passed away), my younger brother Pratompong Anurung and Khun Kemjira Anurung for always inspiring, supporting and encouraging me through the past three years with their best wishes.

Finally, I would like to thanks to the University of Technology Sydney for the provision of financial support through the International Research Student scholarships.

This thesis would not exist without the help and encouragement of those named above.

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ABSTRACT

Hypertension is a common and burdensome condition among older people in Thailand. Extrapolating models from Western society is fraught unless they are able to be tailored and targeted to the host society. This thesis has appraised evidence-based strategies for self-management of hypertension and sought to develop and evaluate an intervention appropriate for rural, community dwelling older individuals in Thailand. Findings from appraisal of the evidence and integrative review identified shared decision-making and mutual goal setting as elements of effective interventions for improving health behaviours and outcomes.

In order to ensure a reliable, valid and culturally appropriate measurement for hypertension management in Thailand, the Hill-Bone Compliance to High Blood Pressure Scale, was translated and culturally adapted. The standardized Cronbach's alpha of all items was 0.64, 0.61 for reduced sodium intake subscale, 0.5 for appointment keeping subscale and 0.69 for medication taking subscale. Pearson's correlation coefficient demonstrated inter-item correlation values ranged from -0.14 to 0.58. The Thai Hill-Bone HBP Compliance scores were positively correlated with level of systolic and diastolic blood pressure.

A sequential explanatory mixed method design, embedding a quasi-experimental with longitudinal study followed by focus group interviews was undertaken. A four week, theoretically derived, community-based intervention program was implemented to improve hypertension management. Adherence to high blood pressure therapy was assessed using the Thai Hill-Bone HBP Compliance Scale, and health related quality of life using the Thai SF-36v1. Participants were 156 (68.6% female). The mean age of participants was 70 years (SD 6.3).

The outcomes demonstrated a statistically significant difference between the groups in systolic blood pressure at all 4 time points , and diastolic blood pressure at three time points (post-intervention, 3-month, 6-month follow-up), and waist circumference at 3-month follow-up. Adherence of high blood pressure therapy showed significant differences between groups in 3-month and 6-month follow-up measurement for sum score, salt intake and appointment keeping subscale. The results in health related quality of life demonstrated statistically significant differences between the groups at all 4 time points in the physical functioning domain.

Conclusion: This study has summarised the burden of hypertension in Thailand and systematically developed a tailored and targeted method of promoting self-management of hypertension in a model of intervention appropriate to older Thai individuals living in a rural setting. This model of intervention requires further evaluation in a multi-centred randomised controlled trial to demonstrate efficacy and effectiveness.