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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Response to Pairojkul et al. Integration of Specialist Palliative Care into Tertiary Hospitals: A Multicenter Point Prevalence Survey from Thailand (DOI: 10.1089/pmr.2021.0003)

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Dear Editor:

We would like to comment on “Integration of Specialist Palliative Care in Tertiary Hospitals: A Multicenter Point Prevalence Survey from Thailand.”¹

Pairojkul et al. noted that “The prevalence of hospitalized palliative care patients in Thailand is comparable with that in developed countries; however, accessibility remains a significant gap, as specialist palliative care is associated with the quality of palliative care service.” The authors noted that data came from tertiary care centers in different regions of a developing country and included data from several provincial and district hospitals. In Thailand, district hospitals are considered primary care centers and provincial hospitals are secondary centers. We worry that the nonhomogeneous sources of data might affect overall features of reported incidence.

In addition, the “Supportive and Palliative Care Indicators Tool (SPICT(TM)) version 2017” was employed. The reliability of the tool, however, is not clear for a non-English-speaking sample. We would encourage

data verification on a modified tool when translated into another language.²

Authors’ Contributions

R.M. and V.W. contributed substantially to study conception and design, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data, drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content, and final approval of the version of the article to be published.

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