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## **THE OUTCOME OF EMERGENCY PATIENT TRANSPORTED BY PUBLIC AIR AMBULANCE SERVICE IN THAILAND**

*LE RÉSULTAT DU PATIENT D'URGENCE TRANSPORTÉ PAR LE SERVICE PUBLIC D'AMBULANCE AÉRIENNE EN THAÏLANDE:*

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**Introduction:** Insufficiency and less accessibility to public emergency medical services (EMS) persist among emergency patients in remote area of Thailand. Thai Sky Doctor Service was initiated by the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM) to improve the accessibility of those emergency patients whose condition needs aeromedical services. However, there is a lack of study on the provision of this service. This research intent to study the characteristics and outcome of Public air ambulance service in Thailand.

**Methods:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was used to study the outcome of emergency patient transported by public air ambulance service in Thailand. Purposive selective for quantitative data used secondary data of all patient records from NIEM (N= 205). Additional interview data used primary data from staff associated with Thai Sky Doctor System; National 1669 Dispatch center (N=3); Regional 1669 Dispatch center (N=1); Flight medical director (N=3); and Flight medical team (N=6). Percentage, mean, median, SD were used for descriptive data, while Fisher's Exact test was used to explore factors associated with one-day and three-day outcome.

**Results:** Results showed that 205 missions were requested for public air ambulance service. 184 cases were transported, while 33 cases were not, due to the lack of aircraft, weather condition, and patients' death before transported. Gender, age, disease group, patient severity, medical team, response time and transport time were not associated with one-day outcome after air transportation. Gender, age, disease group, medical team, response time and transport time were not associated with three-day outcome. Patient severity made a significant difference associated with the three-day outcome at the .05 statistical level ( $p = .033$ ). Some factors were found to facilitate and obstruct this service.

**Conclusion:** Thailand has been developing public air ambulance service policy with good public concern. Patient severity before air transport is associated with delayed three-day outcome. Further study may be necessary to improve patient outcome, and develop public air ambulance service.