

**A PILOT STUDY OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS
PARTICIPATING THE PATIENT-REFERRAL SYSTEM
IN SHIN-CHUAN AREA**

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The objectives of this study intend to find out the problems for a patient – referral system between general practitioners (GPs) and hospital specialists established in Shin-Chuan area, Taipei county.

At first GPs were recruited to participate the plan for their patients referred to Taipei Provincial Hospital (TPH). GPs who agreed to involve were contacted later. In the following 2 months, their patients referral to the TPH were collected. Then, the actual patient referral during these periods in their practice was investigated by questionnaire.

There were 53 among 155 GPs in Shin-Chuan area agreed to participate. The significant influencing factors were the practicing site near TPH, graduates from medical schools, age less than 50 years old and quick response by questionnaire-answer letter. In the following 2 months. 11 patients

were referred to TPH. Nine of them were admitted and 7 were able to be followed by their GPs after discharge.

The actual referral situation by questionnaire during the observation period were 285 patients referred by 50 GPs. The referral rate below 5% was 66%. Two third patients were referred to private hospitals in Taipei city and the others went to public hospitals. The major requirements for referral were arrangement for admission (49%) and emergency consultation (19%).

The options to highlight the referral system between GPs and specialists at TPH included to use direct communication, to improve care quality in hospital, to permit GPs to use hospital facility and to conduct continuing medical education as well as to carry out two-way referral.

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