

Abstract

Impact of Patient Deaths by Suicide on Thai Psychiatrists Through One-to-one Interviews

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Study Objective: To identify the impact of patient deaths by suicide on Thai psychiatrists through one-to-one interviews

Method: The questionnaire letters seeking permission to interview Thai psychiatrists about the impact of patient deaths by suicide were sent to 420 Thai psychiatrists. Twenty nine mailed back the reply letters but the contacts were successful only for twelve of them.

Results: Shock was their first reaction. Half of them attended the funerals and felt good doing so. Ten out of twelve did merits and prayed for their patients. They did all of these believing that their patients would receive the merits. Two consulted their superiors about incidents. Besides possible lawsuit awareness one had the tremendous impact by his office and decided to move to another hospital. Eleven were not worried about legal consequences. All went back and meticulously conducted the reviews of those tragic cases to be more well aware of the possible preventive measures to be taken in the future. All of them came to agree that in addition to the suicide prevention for Thai psychiatry residency training there should be another training session to prepare them for the possible impact of suchlike of their patients-to-be. Including how to handle the situation after such tragedy.

Conclusion: Patient deaths by suicide had the real impact on Thai psychiatrists. Doing merits and praying for their patients were done in the aftermath. Obvious need to integrate a workout session in psychiatry residency training program on such impact was invariably agreed upon.