

Rehabilitation physician: Comparison of the residency training program in Thailand,
the United Kingdom, and the United States of America

Pongsakorn Chaisurin

Abstract:

Rehabilitation Medicine, Physiatry, or Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, together with health promotion, disease prevention, and disease treatment are considered as the four missions in medicine. Rehabilitation physicians are responsible for diagnosing, and treating patients with physical disabilities in order to regain their capacities, and to improve their quality of life. Rehabilitation Medicine Training in Thailand is supervised by the Royal College of Physiatrists of Thailand and the Medical Council of Thailand. There are seven training institutions at the present, with approximately thirty physicians in training each year. As a result, Rehabilitation Medicine training abroad, particularly in the United Kingdom, and in the United States of America are alternatives for Thai medical graduates. This article presents data regarding Rehabilitation Medicine residency training in Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America in many aspects, including name and qualification, a number of training institutions, required qualifications of applicants, a number of physicians accepted for training, duration of training, curricula, evaluation and assessment, and requirements for international medical graduates, specifically requirement in English language competency. The purpose of this study is to provide essential data for interested medical students, and physicians as a guide to search for further information regarding their fields of interests. This article is an example of self-directed learning in medical humanities, with integration between language and medicine as a subject in the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) program.

Key words: Physical medicine and rehabilitation, Rehabilitation physician, Residency training program, Medical humanities (Foreign language in medicine)