

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Medical tourism in Thailand is a lucrative business, developed and promoted for profit, which exemplifies an extreme form of commodification of medicine. To attract medical tourists, healthcare establishments had to adapt their services to their needs and preferences; their efforts eventually lead to a lessening of the tension among tourism and hospitalization, and the emergence of a new concept for medical establishments is epitomized by hotel-special.

Thailand has become well known as a hub for medical tourism, with some of the best private hospitals in Asia providing healthcare services to international patients. There are different reasons for patient's choice of the medical tourism destination. A medical tourism destination could be renowned for tourism, physicians and surgeons, quality of medical infrastructure, availability of accommodation or because of better, country conditions. Some people look for accredited hospitals, some compare prices of surgery, whereas some take advice from family and friends who have traveled abroad, some listen to the testimonials of other patients, and some are helped by medical tourism providers like global medical tourism associations and medical tourism associations of various countries.

Thailand is one of the most popular medical tourism destinations in the world. Its healthcare professionals and facilities are known for excellent services in various disciplines such as plastic and reconstructive surgery, orthopedic surgery, cardiac surgery and dental care. Traditional Thai medicine is also renowned. Long

known for sex-change procedures, Thailand offers some of the world's best values for a variety of health care. Major procedures can be 50 to 70 percent cheaper in Thailand than in the U.S.

Thailand is a medical tourism destination of the availability of world-class medical treatment at fraction of the cost of what one can get in Australia, Europe, US the Middle East and some parts of Asia. It is not the only reason however as Thailand boasts of good quality service, trained medical professionals, latest technology and equipment, and facilities that resemble five-star hotels along with a chance to recuperate in scenic surroundings. Thailand has the outstanding fundamental structure in the medical field and the human resources are recognized to be of international standard. Thai medical services are renowned worldwide, resulting in a rapid growth in related industries such as spa, Thai massage, Thai herbs, serviced apartments and health tourism. Thai medical services have recently acquired an international reputation, attracting a rapidly growing foreign clientele. Treatments in leading hospitals seem to be generally reliable and of a high quality. To attract foreign patients, leading hospitals not only had to raise their medical standards, hiring highly qualified doctors and investing in state-of-the-art medical equipment, they also had to make their establishments more friendly and attractive.

Thailand already has a head start on becoming a global health hub: it has more state and private hospitals with Joint Commission International accreditation than anywhere in the Asean region, while 2014 saw it welcome 1.2 million medical tourists – more than any other country. Bumrungrad International Hospital on Sukhumvit Soi three is also routinely placed in lists of the world's best hospitals for

medical tourism. Thailand shares the spotlight with Singapore, Malaysia, and India to form a regional medical tourism hub. Since the most popular medical travel-acquired is for cosmetic surgery, the medical professionals of Thailand's have provided remarkable cosmetic procedures with affordability. The competition was launched to drive tourist traffic towards the region where Thailand is already considered as the industry leader in the region.

According to International Medical Tourism Journal, Malaysia and South Korea are examples where government level support has provided the industry to stand high while India is going low because the Indian government has demonstrated less interest in this sector. Being the global leader in the industry, Thailand has 30 healthcare organizations accredited by US-based Joint Commission International which is the elite evaluator of global healthcare quality and safety. The medical technology and training that is provided to medical professionals, surgeons, doctors, physicians and paramedical is adept and globally accepted. With a so high ratio of medical tourism, Thailand offers latest and safe procedures performed by licensed and accredited staff only. Most of the medical professionals are qualified by medical associations of US and/or more than two countries. The professionalism is undertaken by Thailand's Medical Council, whose standard is a counterpart to the American Medical Association (AMA).

Thailand's medical system offers expert procedures than other Asian countries which are sometimes turned out to be totally unmanageable results. Thailand offers its medical tourists to stay with visa exemption, which means they can stay up to

30 days without a visa; they just require a passport that is valid for six months. Medical travelers can even apply for a visa upon their arrival. This system has made an easy access to utilize medical treatments in Thailand without any delayed waiting lists.

Thailand has multiple tourist attraction which has already drawn tourists from across the world. Its warm weather, effective tourism infrastructure, world famous Thai cuisine and exotic islands and sun-kissed beaches are always a great attraction for tourists from Europe, US and Australia especially. It is also an aviation hub in the south Asian region with all major international destinations aviation on a daily basis.