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Snake Antivenom Supply and Distribution in Thailand

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Thailand as a tropical country is rich in biodiversities so snakebites are the inevitable health problems. The production by Queen Saovabha Memorial Institute could supply the needs of antivenoms in Thailand. However, some patients could not properly get them in time. In contrary, a certain amount of antivenoms are expired now and then. The main reasons are lack of information about amount and types of antivenoms that should be stocked and clinical inexperience in snakebite management.

The Thailand Antidote Program launched in 2011 has encountered these problems. This program restricted the purchase of antivenoms from government-based hospitals. They provided district hospitals and higher health facilities with suitable antivenoms for the snakes commonly found in the local areas. The district hospital will have antivenoms enough to treat 1-3 cases of snakebites. Once the antivenoms are used, the information will be put in the antidote network website. Soon after that the stock of antivenoms will be restored. The network website also displays the amount of stocked antivenoms in the nearby health facilities to share the antivenoms in case of emergency needs.

By this network, the health providers are ensured of antivenom supply without overstocking. The cost of antivenoms was reduced by 40-50% or 1.5 million dollars annually without compromising treatment outcomes.