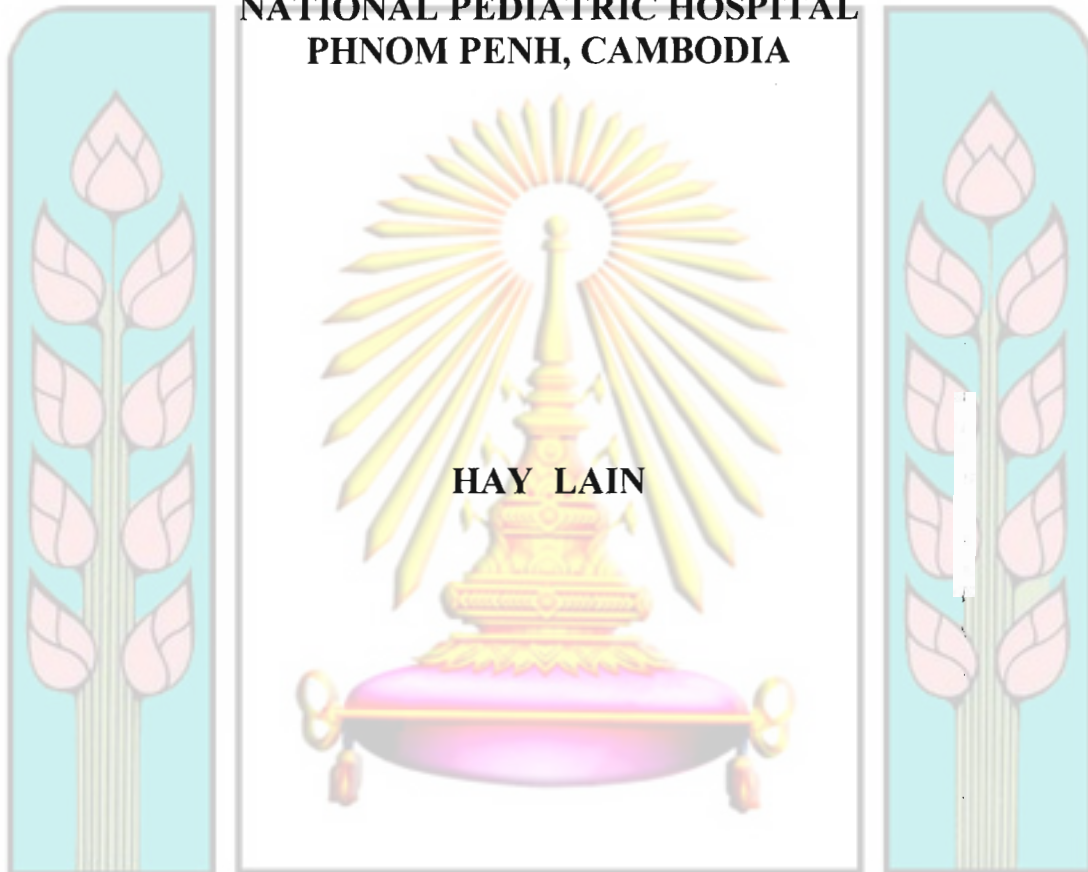


**ASSESSING FACTORS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS
AFFECTING ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION
IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE AT THE
NATIONAL PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA**



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for the Degree of Master of Public Health
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ABSTRACT

Objectives: The main objective of this study is to identify key factors that affect the severity of ARI and to describe the existing level of knowledge and care practice of caretakers related to ARI cases among children under five years of age at the National Pediatric Hospital, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Methods: A hospital based cross sectional study will be conducted at National Pediatric Hospital, Phnom Penh, Cambodia by using structured questionnaires containing both closed and open ended questions for data collection. Three hundreds and eighty five caretakers who have children under five years of age attacked with acute respiratory infection will be interviewed. Sample size will be taken from both In Patient and Out Patient Departments by using systematic sampling technique.

Data exercise: A quantitative approach was done by using structured questionnaires in data exercise in order to exploring the feasibility of my proposal study. Thirty caretakers were interviewed for data collection.

Results: It was revealed that the overall knowledge of caretakers were at unsatisfactory level accounts for (66.7%) in Mild ARI group and (83.3%) in Moderate and severe group especially on cause and route of transmission of ARI. It also showed that the overall care practice of caretakers were at satisfactory level only (55.5%) in Mild ARI group and (58.3%) in Moderate and severe group and there were no

statistically significant association between (socio-demographic of caretaker factors, environmental factors, caretakers knowledge factors, caretakers care practice factors and children's factors) and the severity of ARI (mild, moderate and severe) among children under five years of age at the National Pediatric Hospital, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Recommendations: From the results of this data exercise, some suggestions were made:

1. Community health education program should be introduced to improve the caretakers knowledge.
2. Health providers at the hospital should provide counseling to the caretakers by emphasizing on appropriate care practice.
3. The ARI control program should be rapidly expanded to all care providers and training for health providers at all level should be ensured.