



## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

At Srinagarind University Hospital, the rehabilitation department is the biggest rehabilitation center in the northeast of Thailand. The stroke patients who are treated at Srinagarind hospital number about 300 cases per year. In the rehabilitation inpatient department, there are only 15 beds that can admit stroke patients for a conventional rehabilitation program. Each one must stay in the hospital at least 1 month so there are many patients who can not receive a conventional rehabilitation program in the hospital. Although they should receive a rehabilitation program in the outpatient department, most of the patients live far away from hospital. It is difficult for them to come to the hospital everyday. Home service by the rehabilitation staff is an alternative way to help these patients. However, home service can not be developed at this time because of the limitation of the budget and staff. Fortunately, for Thai culture, there are many relatives living together or close to the patient so that they can help the rehabilitation staff to take care of the patient. Nowadays in the clinical practice, the relatives will be trained in the rehabilitation program by rehabilitation staff. The relatives will take care of the patients by themselves. However this modification technique has not been evaluated previously.

Comparison of the results of a conventional program in the hospital with the home program done by relatives should therefore be studied. If the results of the conventional program in the hospital are not different from the home program, the home program should be considered the alternative way to manage patients who would have been admitted into the rehabilitation department.



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