CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Human body needs blood circulation to nourish the body organs for life existence. In the same way, the existence of the organizations depends on their efficient knowledge and information. It is clearly seen that the information can be easily spread out and taken from one place to another place. Several kinds of information are produced in every minute. We carry out all organizational activities based on our own information. How much the organization succeeds will depend on methods and criteria for selecting the appropriate information.

In the 8th Nation Public Health Development Plan (1997-2001), human resource was the center of development as human the key factor in development achievement. And now development should be done in the holistic feature. This means that all factors developed are integrated systematically. In the public health development in response to the human development target, there are two holistic aspects. Firstly, to be related and involved with economic, social, value, culture, behavior and environment. Secondly, Aiming at human resource development for health promotion, prevention and self health care, combine with environmental development factors, such as public health service, information technology system, administration system and state of environment, which promote better health.

With the new concept of development by focusing on human resource as the center, Phayao Provincial Health Office has changed its guidelines for development in the form of public health service aiming at the five target groups; 0 – 5 year-old group, 5 – 14 year–old group, 15 – 44 year-old group, 45-60 year-old group, and over 60 year-old group. All activities undertaken for the target groups will be merged with the type of holistic care services causing the changes in the public health system, for example, Health Center structure was developed, and health care staffs were improved their potentials. The most important factor for changing and developing, which will be appropriate for the target groups and enable them to provide a wide range of activities, is public health information system which is easily pursued and evaluated. Moreover, the system must contribute to the services given to the target groups as a holistic care service.

Information system can be divided into two parts; internal factor which is consisted of three things; input is the collection of data from the phenomenon and behaviors recorded, process is the data for analyzing and output is the data for application; and external factors comprises of the determination of system, organization and policy.

Public health information means the public health information facts such as birth, death, illness and number of public health staff information. Public health information sources means the places which give public health information regularly. The Public health sources is consisted of two sectors; government sector such as Health centers, District Health Office, Hospital etc. and private sector such as Village health Volunteer, Private Hospital, Non-Government Organization etc.

Data collection has a great important role on information since all public health information will be used for decision – making process at all stages starting from planning, managing and directing, and job assessment. Thus, data collector must know about the information they are going to gather for obtaining quality information; complete correct and reliable information. Data will be recorded in the form or in the computer. Data can be gathered by several ways as follows;

1. Observations

A well-structured form or procedure is used to record in the form such as municipal data and environmental change data.

2. Conversations

Data-collecting is given by informants who are the clinical clients. All data will be recorded in the patient's record.
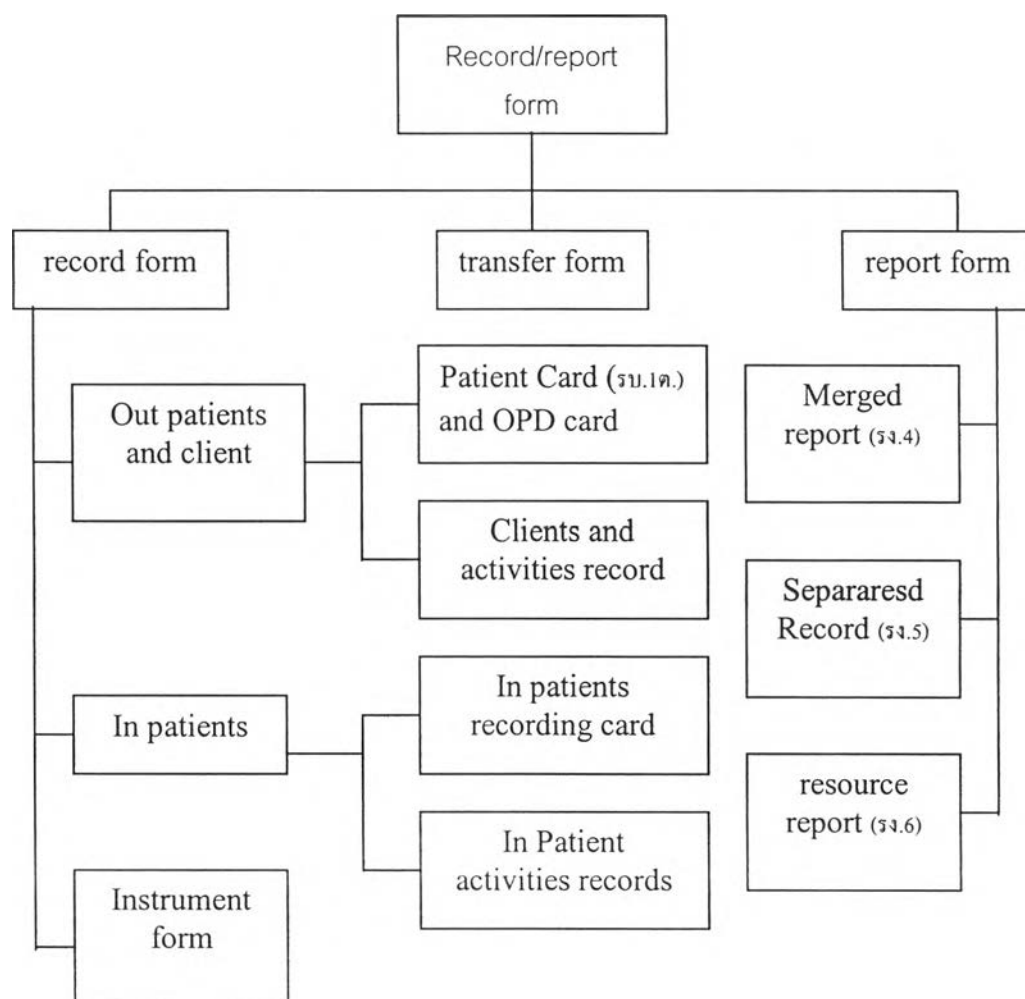
3. Check up and diagnosis

The examiner or doctors will record what they have found in the checklist form and give the diagnosis such as the results of blood test.

4. Patient's documents

Information details can be recorded by copying from patient's documents such as ID card or house census.

There are several different kinds of recording forms in practical use. The difference in the use of each form may be varied by the objectives of data-gathering. Thus, the Ministry of Public Health categorized forms ad shown in figure 1.

Figure 1: The chart of record and report form of Ministry of Public Health.

Report receiving from the record summarized in the reporting forms, such as monthly report or separate report, is used to be the information sent to the up levels in various way via diskette, telephone, radio or e-mail; which method is used depends on how urgent is the reporting situation.

It is clearly seen that the record or report is a primary source of information. However, all records mentioned above are needed to be gathered by several departments in the Ministry of public Health. The local health centers still benefit from that information at low level. Moreover, the information needed for the health centers does not only obtain from the records/reports but also from the use of other methods.