COVID-19 positive test result from private hospital laboratory, neglecting on reporting
and problem on national infection control

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To the Editor,

The new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a new global public health problem. It already affects more than 140 countries around the world. Thailand is the second country in the timeline of disease pandemic [1]. The infection occurs since early January 2020 and COVID-19 is still uncontrollable problem. The Thai Ministry of Public Health tried several methods for counteracting the disease outbreak. As a legal control, COVID-19 is included into the national list of infectious disease under surveillance. The laws note that when a medical center detects this disease, an official report to governmental Center of Disease Control has to done within 3 hours. If one violates this legal control, there will be punishment.

The exact advantage of this legal regulation on COVID-19 control is an interesting issue. In Thailand, not only governmental hospitals but also some private hospitals have ability for laboratory diagnosis of COVID-19. From overall 82 incidences of COVID-19 in Thailand (15 March 2020), there is an interesting case that the patient self-declared for infection via Instagram and there was no previous official report received by local CDC. This case presented positive laboratory result from a private hospital. This case was finally confirmed as a case of COVID-19 and it is questionable that the private hospital might neglect and violate legal control in disease reporting. This case is a big challenge in hospital infection control. Good data collection is important for getting a good surveillance data that is important for infectious disease control [2]. Sometimes, a poor unethical private hospital might not follow the disease control guidelines. In a situation of disease outbreak, collaboration from hospitals is required and here should be strict legal regulations on disease control system. In case that there is a violation, the punishment to the bad role model should be levied.

Conflict of interest

None
References
