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**ANALYSIS ON COMPARISON OF PSYCHIATRIC INVOLUNTARY ADMISSION IN RUSSIA, THAILAND AND MALAYSIA**

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In order to identify opportunities for further improvement of the regulatory framework of mental health act, taking into account of international experiences in this field, a comparative analysis of involuntary admission of psychiatric patients in Russia, Thailand and Malaysia is carried out using materials of provisions of the Law of RF No3185-1 of 02.07.1992 about “Psychiatric Assistance and Guarantees of the Rights of Citizen in its Provision”, “Mental Health Acts” of Thailand 2551 on year 2008 and Malaysia 615 on 27.09.2001, and also different scientific publications on this topic and personal interview with psychiatrists.

The order and timing of decisions on involuntary hospitalization are different in each country. For involuntary admission in Russia, patient which is sent to the hospital must be assessed in 48 hours by the Committee of psychiatrists. If admission is indicated, then a report with application admission is sent to the court within 24 hours, and the court, will decide upon the hospitalization within 5 days. Patient reserves the right to attend the legal process.

In Thailand, a doctor and a nurse attached to state hospital or psychiatric hospital shall complete preliminary diagnosis and assessment for the patient being brought by the police or transferred from other hospitals within 48 hours. Doctors have the power to conduct diagnosis and treatment as necessary for the sake of patient. The committee which consists of psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, medical social worker, psychiatric mental health nurse, occupational therapist and legal representatives shall conduct elaborated diagnosis and assessment to that person within 30 days of admission. The maximum period of treatment for patient is 90 days, which could be extended for another 90 days as decided by the Committee.

In Malaysia, decision is made by Medical Director of psychiatric hospital and Committee, called as “Visitors”, which is appointed by Ministry of Health of Malaysia in all psychiatric hospitals for a term not more than three years. It is further noted that in Malaysia, police will send patient to the hospital and after hospitalization, the Medical Director of the psychiatric hospital shall, within 24 hours of person’s admission, make or cause to be made on him by a medical officer or a registered medical practitioner such examination as the Medical Director may consider necessary for determining whether or not the continued detention of person is justified. When patient admission is justified, patient is treated in the hospital for not more than 1 month with possibility of extension for 3 months upon decision of Medical Director. Patient is further assessed by the Committee “Visitors” within 3 months to decide upon the problem of extension for another 6 more months, if it is necessary. Upon interview with psychiatrist in Malaysia, it is found out that court is only involved in forensic cases as it would have taken ages if one needs to wait for the court’s decision. Furthermore, sometimes, admission needs to be done impromptu from emergency department in case patient is severely psychotic.

The indications for admission are varied in all three countries:

In Russia, patient is admitted when he is dangerous to his own and others, helplessness to carry out personal life and when it poses a threat to the patient’s health.

In Thailand, patient is admitted when patient is in threatening conditions of any exposed behavior with mental disorder which may cause serious harm to live, body or property of his own and others and have requirements for treatment to protect or alleviate his mental disorder or to prevent harm which may be happened to the patient or other.

In Malaysia, patient is admitted when he is suffering from mental disorder of a nature or degree which warrants his admission for the purpose of assessment or treatment and the person ought to be detained in the interest of his own health or safety or with a view to the protection of other persons.

**Conclusion:**

Overall, the mental health act in Malaysia and Thailand do not differ much in most points. In Malaysia and Thailand, psychiatrists are given more power to deal with psychiatric care as in involuntary admission of patient which can be decided by doctors and Committee of psychiatrist, judging on patient’s condition which in this case, in Russia, court overrules everything.

In Thailand and Russia, written consent is needed from patient or patient’s guardian prior to admission and this is not stated in Malaysia in which patient would be admitted if patient is suffering from mental disorder of a nature or degree which warrants his admission. This is a good point to be noted because it is understood that patient agrees for diagnostic assessment and treatment if patient visits the doctor himself, and for involuntary admission as admitted by police officers as patient which compels urgent treatment (for example : acute psychosis) is not deemed fit and conscious enough to sign for any consent.

It is recommended for Malaysia to learn from Thailand, in which the committee of Thailand involves not only experts or professionals from the field of psychiatry, but also involves medical social worker, nurse, legal experts, occupational therapists and clinical psychologist to render a better mental health system to the population.

Each countries has its own plus and minus points in its current mental health act, hence, it is good to learn from each other for future betterment of the psychiatric system in its own country.