



## **The Thai Ministry of Public Health announces integrated care program for renal disease patients**

**The Thai Ministry of Public Health announces integrated care policy for all renal disease patients focusing on kidney donation and transplantation.**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2009, Mr. Wittaya Kaewparadai the Minister of Public Health announced that to commemorate King Bhumibhol's 84<sup>th</sup> birthday the Ministry will focus on developing complete renal care for the Thai people especially by screening for kidney diseases in patients at risk, universal access to CAPD, setting up of new hemodialysis unit in specific area, and kidney transplantation. These tasks will be implemented by the Ministry's provincial offices and state owned hospitals. Emphasis will be given to promoting organ donation from brain death donors since kidney transplantation is the best treatment option for patients with ESRD to solve the existing problem of organ shortage due to the lack of donors.



**Mr. Wittaya Kaewparadai**  
The Minister of Public Health



**Dr. Paichit Warachit**  
The Permanent Secretary,  
Ministry of Public Health

Dr. Paichit Warachit, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health also stated that dialysis is a treatment option for ESRD patients but the cost of the treatment must be affordable for all Thais. The Ministry will increase more satellite units at key local hospitals across the country in conjunction with supporting more patients in to CAPD program which will further enhance the longevity of ESRD patients. He will also systemize the organ donation process in order to cope with the demand for patients who are waiting list for kidney transplantation.

In October 2009, it is expected that Thailand has approximately 30,000 ESRD patients with an increasing trend which is caused by diabetes and hypertension derived from unhealthy way of consumption and living.