

## 5. The Outlook

The review of the achievements of the universal health care scheme has revealed that it is a good project and beneficial for the people, especially those in income quintiles 1 (the poorest) and 2 (the poor). The district health services system comprising the community hospital and health centres in its network has translated policies into action in a concrete manner effectively for eligible persons as it is easily accessible, near their houses, and of good quality to a certain extent. To maintain the role and expand the services at the district level to increase equality in the health system, it is necessary that the budget and human resources be adequately allocated and suitable for their operations.

In 2007, kidney replacement services (haemodialysis, perinatal dialysis and kidney transplantation) are not part of the benefit package of the universal health care scheme despite the fact that such services are available under the civil servants Medical Benefits Scheme and the Social Security Scheme. This is due to the high costs of services, approximately 200,000 to 300,000 baht per year and the government is not in a financial position to provide such services to all the patients. However, if any eligible person under the universal healthcare scheme struggles to buy such services out of pocket, his/her family will become penniless as the service fee is very high and they have to borrow some money from other people or sell their property or production factors to cover the expenses. So the government should make a decision to do something to help relieve the financial burden of the needy family. For example, the kidney replacement services may be provided to some patients with potentially high



returns, such as someone who is young and the head of household; or various financing sources should be sought for this purpose from such agencies as the state, foundations, or donations with some co-payments from the patients. Providing or not providing services to a patient has drawn some criticism about social fairness and ethics of resource allocation.



