



Cost for investigation for a suspicious case of COVID-19

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■ Implication for health policy/practice/research/medical education

At present, the standard diagnostic investigation for COVID-19 is the molecular diagnosis.

■ **Keywords:** COVID-19, Investigation, Coronavirus infection

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Wuhan novel coronavirus infection or COVID-19 is a new disease (1). After its first emergence, it presently exists in many countries and accepted as an important public health problem. For management of the case, the early detection is required. At present, the standard diagnostic investigation is the molecular diagnosis. Here, the authors summarize and discuss on cost for investigation for a suspicious case of COVID-19. The situations in Thailand, where there are already many imported cases are referred to (2). Based on the local available data, the investigation is given for specific patients with suspicious infection. The cost identification for the investigation shows that overall cost, including direct and indirect, cost is up to 320 USD. This can imply that unnecessary investigation should not be done. General hospitals in Thailand providing free medical service according to local universal coverage policies set the rule that if a patient without suspicious clinical feature requests for unnecessary investigation, the

patient has to pay for the mentioned amount of charge.

Authors' contribution

PS and VW wrote the manuscript equally.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declared no competing interests.

Ethical considerations

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