



**A COST ANALYSIS  
ON REPRODUCTIVE TRACT INFECTIONS (RTIs) SERVICE PROVISION  
IN RURAL YUNNAN, CHINA**

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Cost analyses are beneficial to improve resource allocation. However, due to the global long ignorance on an issue of reproductive tract infections (RTIs), the literature on cost of RTIs is apparently few. Therefore, This study was undertaken to study the cost and cost structure of RTIs services in health care facilities at county/city, township and village levels in rural Yunnan. The methodologies developed in this study included cost identification, classification, quantification, unit costing and comparison of cost structure. The cost analysis were mainly conducted in 6 health facilities to 1) provide cost information for future RTIs service resource allocation, 2) encourage hospitals to better manage costs, and 3) establish a methodological framework for investigate cost for a particular service.

After identifying the RTIs related cost items, the unit cost and cost structure were computed and analyzed. All data were described in US\$ at the current value of the year 2000. For routine services, unit cost per visited of cervicitis, salpingo-oophoritis, mycotic vaginitis, and trichomonas vaginitis service for combined two medical procedures ranged from US\$2.94-3.59 in Kaiyuan City Hospital (CH), US\$14.4-16.35 in Family Planning (FP) Station, US\$4.3-5.51 in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Hospital, US\$2.9-4.32 in Traditional Chinese Medical Hospital (TCMH), US\$10.05-10.39 in Yangjie Township Health Center (Y-HC), and US\$20.88-21.43 in Dazhuang Township Health Center (D-HC).

For the two medical steps, women with RTIs were diagnosed at the laboratory examination section at a cost from US\$0.52 in CH to US\$ 6.63 in D-HC per case. In FP, this service costed US\$4.88. In MCH, it costed US\$0.62; in TCMH US\$0.53 and in Y-HC, it costed US\$2.85. The unit cost per case visited at the gynecological outpatient section ranged from US\$2.44-3.09 in Kaiyuan CH, US\$9.55-11.47 in FP Station, US\$3.68-4.89 in MCH, and US\$2.37-3.79 in TCMH, US\$7.2-7.54 in Y-HC, and US\$14.24-14.75 in D-HC. The mobile service, by contrast, was provided at a lower unit cost. The unit costs for cervicitis, salpingo-oophoritis, mycotic vaginitis, and trichomonas vaginitis service ranged from US\$3.24 to US\$4.45 per case visited.

At the city level, the FP was noticeably the most costly institute among the four sample facilities. At the township level, the unit cost in D-HC was found higher than that in Y-HC. Costs at the city level were astonishingly lower than those at the township level.

This research also confirmed that to analyze cost structure is highly essential to identify significant cost items in unit costs. Three types of cost were the most significant components among all cost items, namely: (1) the drug cost, (2) indirect staff time cost, and (3) direct staff time. Furthermore, reasons that might influence cost and cost structure were identified and analyzed.