

# CHAPTER 1

## Introduction

In the present, modern medicines still have limitations in treating certain illnesses, especially chronic diseases, due to some adverse effects from drug used and the fact that they cannot provide sufficient satisfaction to the patients [1]. Because of the limitation, trends of alternative medicines have occurred. In Thailand, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is one of many alternative medicines popular among Thai people and foreigners. The use of Chinese herb formula is one of these treatments. There are the monographs of Chinese herb formula in Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China (2005) [2] to ensure the quality of herbs and formula. However, the Chinese herbs still have problems with their quality and contamination of heavy metal and undesired materials. As a result, they have been banned, recalled or warned in some countries [3-6].

Menopause disorder is one of chronic diseases that has some adverse effects from modern medicines, such as breast cancer, cardiovascular complication, etc [7]. Liu Wei Di Huang (LWDH) is one of TCM formulas that are often used to treat this illness. The administrative of LWDH formula is 6 – 9 grams for pills or 3 – 5 grams for granules dosage form 2 – 3 times daily.

Uses of traditional dosage forms, decoction and pills, have some disadvantages such as inconvenience in using, unacceptable taste and odor, variation of content uniformity, contamination of microorganism and heavy metal [5]. The aim of this study is to develop LWDH formula into tablets dosage form.