

Health Care Management and Planning

1. Staffs and Students (April, 2009)

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2. Purpose of Education

By analyzing the Japanese healthcare policies and system and by reviewing their interaction with society, the structural characteristics and issues can be clarified. To resolve or find better ways to handle these issues, we conduct research into public health and welfare, and its related disciplinary areas. With the cooperation of active policy makers and personnel from the healthcare departments, the research results can be applied to the present healthcare policies and system. Through this education on collecting data, clarifying issues, analyzing the situation, and evaluating options, students taking this course are expected to grow in their ability to make healthcare policies.

3. Research Subjects

In the academic areas mentioned above, we conduct research under the following topic areas:

- 1) The significance of public healthcare planning, its challenges, and influences on the healthcare system
We conduct research on issues related to new healthcare policies including planning, analysis, issue resolution, and making positive changes to the healthcare plan. This research area includes the Japanese emergency medical service and the impartial evaluation of the travel distance of aid agents and the time required for them to reach their destination.
- 2) Structural analyses and policy choices concerning national blood services
In Japan, we experienced HIV infection from tainted blood products. There were various causes for this event, and improvements are required in all processes: collecting blood, screening blood, manufacturing blood products, and following-up on the usage of these products. By analyzing background information related to the adverse events and their causes, we can propose the most appropriate policies related to blood services, thus ensuring safety, and securing a stable supply. To achieve a stable supply of blood products, we also conduct epidemiological studies to review guidelines on collecting blood.
- 3) The government role in preventing medical errors
Issues related to medical errors and adverse events have recently attracted a great deal of attention in Japan. We study the role that the government should play regarding various medical errors and their prevention as well as review and address the financial loss caused by blood-related adverse events and policies on prevention.
- 4) Local healthcare system
By reviewing and analyzing activities related to disease prevention and health promotion conducted by local healthcare centers, we research the role of the local healthcare system and its effectiveness and efficiency.
- 5) Systemizing and evaluating public health policies
We review the processes of creating public health policies and systems, address the association with the creating processes and stakeholders such as political parties and lobby groups, evaluate their policies, and then suggest improvements to these policies and systems.
- 6) The role of healthcare communication to fill in gaps between medical providers and patients, and to share the

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uncertainties related to medicine and healthcare

- 7) The influence of healthcare communication on patient and medial safety
- 8) Reviewing communication tools and skills, and their systematic introduction into the healthcare system in order to realize patient participation and proactive involvement in treatment processes

4. Clinical Services

None

5. Publications

Original Article

1. Ayano Kunimitsu: The accuracy of clinical malaria case reporting at primary health care facilities in Honiara, Solomon Islands. *Malaria Journal*,8:80, 2009
2. Takako Shima-Sano, Rika Yamada, Kazuyo Sekita, Raleigh W. Hankins, Hiromasa Hori, Hiroshi Seto, Koji Sudo, Makiko Kondo, Kazuo Kawahara, Yuki Tsukahara, Noriyuki Inaba, Shingo Kato, and Mitsunobu Imai. (2010) A Human Immunodeficiency Virus Screening Algorithm to Address the High Rate of False-Positive Results in Pregnant Women in Japan. *PLoS ONE* (in press)
3. Fujitani, Katsumi, Kawahara, Kazuo et al "Safety of 400-mL whole-blood collection in 17-year-old Japanese male donors". *The Japan society of Transfusion Medicine and Cell Therapy*. Vol.55 (1) 2009.
4. Munsur AH, Atia A, Koffi AK, K. Kawahara: Household out-of-pocket expenditure on health care in Bangladesh- using Principal Component Analysis (PCA). *Bio Science Trend*, Vol3(1), 25-31, 2009.

Review Article

None

Book

None