

JNA News Release

Japanese Nursing Association

5-8-2 Jingu-mae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001, JAPAN Tel: +81-3-5778-8559 Fax: +81-3-5778-5602

<http://www.nurse.or.jp/jna/english/index.html>

Holding of a hospital nurse administrators' discussion meeting

Japanese Nursing Association (JNA) held a discussion meeting with 18 groups including the nurse administrators' organization, the nursing organization and the nursing section of hospital organization to exchange opinions and to share information on nursing policy issues in hospitals. At the 1st meeting, JNA explained our approach, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), which reflects the report from the

"Internal project team to promote 'quality of employment' of nurses and other personnel" in the MHLW. In the opinion exchange that followed, there were comments and request on the issues including securing nurses on night shift, and securing nursing personnel at small and medium-sized hospitals. We will hold the meeting about twice a year to get to know the actual situation at clinical settings. ■

Completion of the MHLW report of the "PT on 'quality of employment' of nurses and other personnel" at the MHLW

JNA lobbied Diet members and related organizations to secure working conditions and an environment, where nurses can continue to work. As a result, in November 2010, the MHLW established an "Internal project team(PT) to promote 'quality of employment' of nurses and other personnel" at the Minister's direction, and has conducted the necessary studies. On June 17, the MHLW PT published a report, and on the same day, issued a notification, "Approaches to promote 'quality of employment' of nurses and other personnel," in the joint names of the Health Policy Bureau, Labour Standards Bureau, Employment Security Bureau, Equal Employment, Children and Families Bureau, and Health Insurance Bureau, to the prefectural governors. The issuance of the notification in the joint name of the five Bureaus is an epoch-making event.

MHLW also requested a budget for fiscal year 2012 to continue working on to promote of "quality of

employment."

The report from the MHLW indicates the difficult working conditions of shift work in the hospitals, etc., including night shift, and the fragility of the labor management system, and it is based on the fundamental idea that "a sustainable health care service system and the security of medical safety cannot be expected without improving the nursing work conditions." JNA values the report highly as being epoch-making, since it goes as far as to ask the establishment of a labor management system concerning the improvement.

Besides the approach of the MHLW, JNA has made efforts to prepare a guideline for a target to improve the working conditions of night shift and shift work of nursing personnel. We have considered the guideline based on the actual situation of nursing work in Japan and new knowledge in the field of labor science. The reality is also that the work site cannot manage the working time without funding sources.

JNA requests a raise in the medical service fees (basic hospitalization charges), as a funding source to secure funds to increase the number of nursing personnel needed to improve the working conditions. We also ask to calculate the placement of nursing personnel on the assumption of accruing statutory

leave, such as maternity leave, childcare leave, short-time work for childcare, and so on. Through these approaches, we aim to relieve the burden of night shift and the correction of long-hours' work of nurses. ■

Report of the MHLW project team to promote "quality of employment" of nurses and other personnel (Japanese), the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, June 17, 2011

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/2r9852000001f0g4-att/2r9852000001foyp.pdf>

The 3rd Korea- China - Japan Nursing Conference

The 3rd Korea-China-Japan Nursing Conference hosted by the Korean Nurses Association and co-organized by the Chinese Nursing Association and JNA was held in Seoul Special City, South Korea from 25 to 27 October. Six hundred people from three countries participated in the conference and actively exchanged opinions under the theme of the "Nurses' social responsibility and role." ■



From left, CNA President Xiuhua Li, ICN President Rosemary Bryant, KNA President Kyung-Rim Shin, and JNA President Suga Sakamoto

Poster Session



Board members of JNA, KNA and CNA together with ICN Board Kanai and former JNA President Hisatsune.

Nursing in Japan

Q. What are the placement of nursing personnel and basic hospitalization charges?

“Basic hospitalization charges” is the name of the “medical service fees,” that are paid to the hospital when a patient is hospitalized. A stipulated amount of money is paid for the patient, and the patient pays a fixed percentage of it to the hospital (patient copayment).

The compensation for nursing services is included in the “basic hospitalization charges.” In addition, the basic physician fee, and the ward environment (patient’s bedroom, bedclothes, bathroom, dining room, air conditioning, fuel and lighting, tap water, and so on) are included in the “basic hospitalization charges.”

“Basic hospitalization charges” are classified as follows.

“7 to 1” or “10 to 1” classification indicates the placement of nursing personnel per patient. For example, “7 to 1” means that one nursing personnel takes care of seven patients for every 24 hours of a day.

The more generous the placement of nursing personnel per patient is, the higher the medical service fees that are paid to the hospital.

Basic hospitalization charges at a general hospital (Example)

The example below is an estimate, assuming that one nursing personnel provides approximately 150 hours of nursing care per month in a ward of 50 patients.

Classification	Total number of nursing personnel placed	On night shift		On day shift	
		Number of nursing personnel on duty	Number of patients per nursing personnel	Number of nursing personnel on duty	Number of patients per nursing personnel
7 to 1	37	5	10	12	4.2
10 to 1	25	3	16.7	9	5.6
13 to 1	20	3	16.7	6	8.3
15 to 1	17	2	25	6	8.3
Special	Hospitals that do not meet the requirements for the placement of nursing personnel or their night duty, etc., make their own calculations.				

News Topics in Japan

Preparations for the submission of a bill on specific practice nurses (tentative name) to the next Diet session

On October 12, at the “Conference on the promotion of team care” of the MHLW, the MHLW said that it was preparing to submit a bill on the institutionalization and legislation of the position of specific practice nurses (tentative name) to the next Diet session.