

JNA News Release

Japanese Nursing Association

5-8-2 Jingu-mae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-0001, JAPAN Tel: +81-3-5778-8559 Fax: +81-3-5778-8478

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

JNA Opposes Establishment of a New Basic Nursing Education System for Working Adults Who Are University Graduates

Japanese Nursing Association (JNA) believes that pre-licensing education is very important foundation for nursing professionals. Liberal education together with systematic nursing education will be essential to providing high-quality nursing tailored to individual Japanese citizens in the future. Because of this, JNA promotes the basic nursing education at the university level.

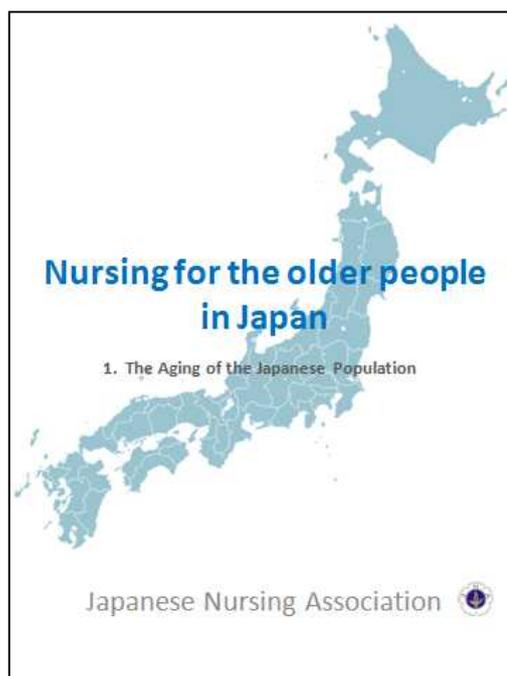
Currently, the Japanese government's National Council on Social Security System Reform has proposed establishing a new two-year basic nursing education system for working adults with bachelor's degrees. JNA has decided on a policy opposing establishment of the new system, for the following reasons.

- It is not desirable for nursing education system to become even more complex.
- It is unacceptable for JNA whose position is to enrich the basic nursing education, as the new basic nursing education system is thought to be the shortened education in 2 years.
- University graduates should take nursing university training with a proper educational environment ■

Information on Nursing for the Older People in Japan Posted on JNA website

The growing number of aging population is an issue that needs to be addressed globally. As Japan has a much higher percentage of older people than in other countries, our country is looking at a variety of ways to tackle with this situation. JNA has begun posting information resources on nursing for the older people in Japan on our official English web site. These resources introduce the situation in Japan using facts and figures covering three topics: 1. The Aging of the Japanese Population; 2. Nursing for Older People: Current Situation and Challenges; and 3. The Japanese Nursing Association in Action.

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Standard Text for Promoting Medical Safety

JNA published a new “Standard Text for Promoting Medical Safety.” JNA has previously published two policies on medical safety. In 1999 we released our policy for accidents prevention “Prevention of Medical Accidents throughout the Organizations: Risk Management Guidelines for Nurse Administrators”. We followed this in 2002 with a policy to respond the accidents “Responding the Medical Accidents: Risk Management Guidelines for Administrators”. Although numerous healthcare institutions utilize these policies, there has been a growing need to review these to respond the revision of the Medical Service Act and the establishment of a medical safety management system that includes education. Following two years of examining the issues by a study committee launched in 2011, JNA now

published the new text.

In examining and developing the content of the text, JNA focused on the role and functions of nurses as they relate to standard medical safety practices and medical safety management systems that have taken root at many healthcare institutions in the 14 years since the first guideline was released in 1999. The new text explains the basic stance on promotion of medical safety. It gives an overview of concrete efforts to promote medical safety and prevent medical accidents, and an overview of concrete efforts taken when medical accidents do occur, and the legal responsibility in such cases. Finally, the text explains medical safety training as part of the basic and continuing nursing education. ■

2013 Survey of Tobacco Use by Nurses

JNA surveys its members to study their use of tobacco. The purpose is to identify the smoking rate and smoking-related factors (lifestyle, working environment, etc.) among nurses who work for the health of Japanese citizens, and to indicate what support these members need. The survey was last taken seven years ago, in 2006. The 2006 survey revealed that 19.9% of nurses smoked, down 5.8% from the 2001 survey. Results of the 2013 survey will be announced in April 2014. We will also reveal the results in the JNA News Release. ■

News Topics in Japan

Specified medical interventions that nurses perform to assist medical care

On October 17, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare’s Working Group to Examine Nurses’ Works to Promote Team Healthcare set the 41 interventions such as intubation as specified medical interventions that nurses could practice within the nurses’ role of assisting medical care. Nurses will be obligated to complete training to practice these interventions. The MHLW plans to submit the draft of a legal revision at next year’s regular session of the Diet to assure the training system for these specified medical interventions a legal grounding. Moreover, several new interventions will be added that nurses will be able to practice as the nurses’ role of assisting medical care without any obligation to receive training.

Nursing in Japan

Q What institutions offer basic nursing education in Japan, and how many years do the programs take?

There are several courses on basic nursing education in Japan. The most common routes to become a nurse are to complete senior high school and then receive basic nursing education at a four-year university, three-year junior college or three-year nursing school. Candidates then take a national examination to obtain a license. The major difference of these courses is the government organization with jurisdiction over the training institution. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology oversees universities and junior colleges, while in general the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare oversees nursing schools. There is also an option for junior high school graduates, who can attend a five-year nursing senior high school.

Training of public health nurses and midwives takes place at universities, through one-year junior college and nursing school programs, master’s degree programs at graduate schools, and others. In cases where universities offer public health nurse or midwife training programs within their four-year undergraduate curricula, students can be qualified to take the national examinations for public health nurse and/or midwife in addition to the national examination for nurse.

