

JNA News Release

Japanese Nursing Association

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The Commencement of a Training System for Nurses to Perform Specific Medical Interventions

On June 18, 2014, the Amendatory Law to the Related Acts for Securing Comprehensive Medical and Long-Term Care in the Community was passed in the Diet. As a part of this movement, the Act on Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses was revised and a Training System for Nurses to Perform Specific Medical Interventions (hereafter, the training system) was established.

Under the training system, medical interventions involving highly skilled judgment and practice (hereafter, specific interventions) are defined. Also, the content of training required for nurses to perform such specific interventions is standardized, which aims to develop practical understanding, thinking and judgment, in addition to advanced professional knowledge and skills. With the training system, not only the safety of patients, but also the safety of nurses who perform the specific interventions will be secured. However, it does not mean that nurses completed this training

perform only specific interventions defined in the training system. These nurses will perform the specific interventions across the continuum of nursing care. This is expected to result in the provision of safe and high-quality health care.

After the recommendation on the trained nurses to perform such specific interventions made at the review meeting of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) in March 2010, JNA has worked toward establishing the training system that allows nurses to perform the specific interventions under the law. With the enactment of the training system, from now on, JNA will request the government to ensure safety for patients and nurses and will support nurse managers to develop an implementation structure at healthcare institutions. Furthermore, JNA will work with the government and other stakeholders to provide well-developed and systematic training in collaboration with post-graduate educational institutes in order to maximize nursing expertise.

The Commencement of a Notification System to Nurse Centers

By the revision of the Act on Assurance of Work Forces of Nurses and Other Medical Experts, it will be mandatory for nurses to make an effort to notify prefectural nurse centers of items specified in MHLW ordinance in such cases as when leaving nursing jobs.

In rapidly aging Japan, it is estimated that 500,000 more nurses will be required in 2025 compared to today. Therefore, the provision of a working environment in which nurses are able to continue working and a smooth reinstatement process for unemployed nurses

will be essential. JNA is working to enhance functions of the nurse centers in collaboration with Prefectural Nursing Associations and to provide support for the reinstatement following an expected increase in the registration of unemployed nurses at the nurse centers. Specifically, JNA is preparing to expand functions by an installation of the new

computing system at the nurse centers.

In addition, a positive practice environment is important to promote the reinstatement of unemployed nurses. JNA will focus on an improvement of a working environment as a part of the work-life balance projects which JNA has implemented so far.

What are nurse centers?

In 1992, nurse centers were established based on the Act on Assurance of Work Forces of Nurses and Other Medical Experts. The nurse centers serve for nurses and implement projects, such as free job placement, training for re-employment, and support for home-visit nursing.

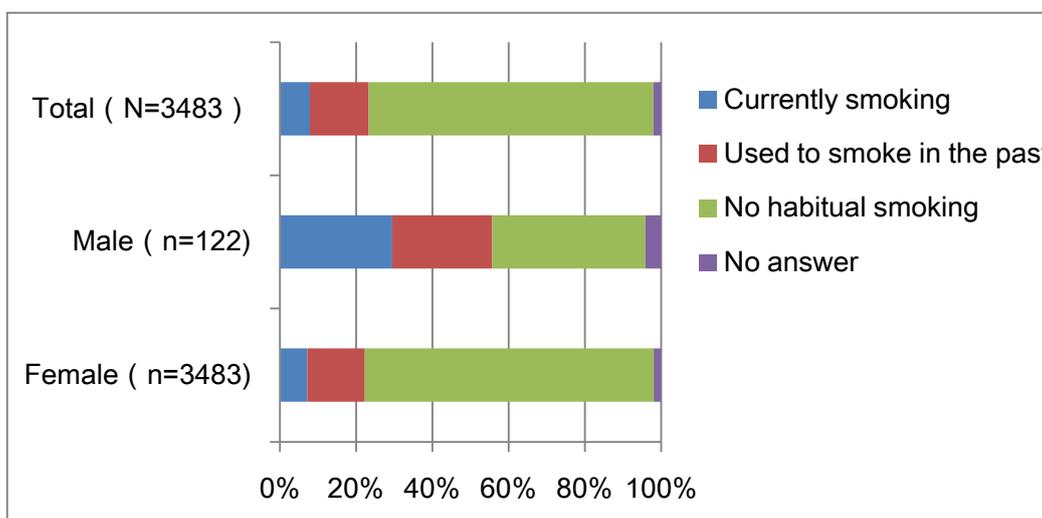
JNA is designated by MHLW to operate a central nurse center while Prefectural Nursing Associations are designated by prefectural governors to operate prefectural nurse centers. One prefectural nurse center is located in each prefecture in Japan.

Free employment placement is available at prefectural nurse centers and the e-nurse center on the Internet.

A Survey of Tobacco-use among Nurses

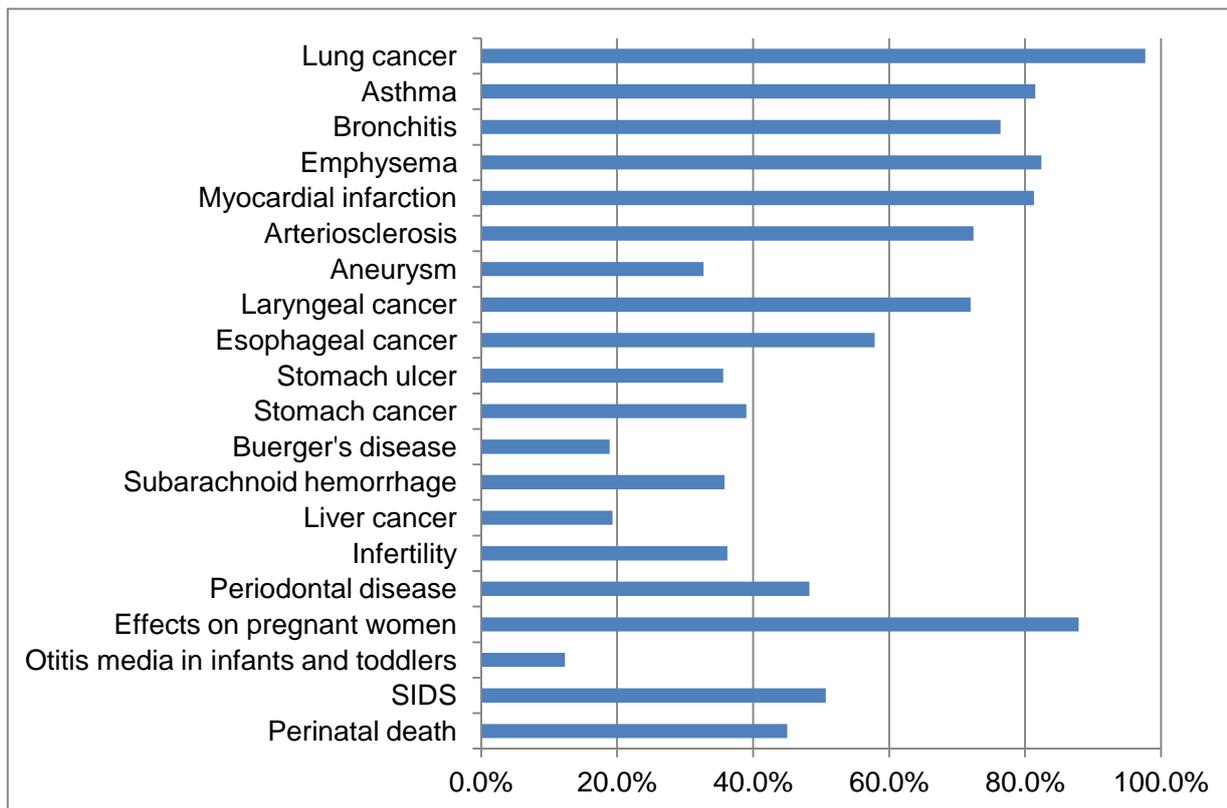
JNA conducted a survey of our members regarding the actual situation of tobacco use among nurses. In Japanese society, efforts to promote smoking bans and designated smoking areas have been made and support for smoking cessation has been reinforced. As a result, the rate of smoking among Japanese has generally

been declining. In this survey, the rate of smoking among nurses is lower than that of the Japanese population, but it was also revealed that an awareness of health risks from smoking is low. JNA will continue to work to ensure that all nurses have correct knowledge about smoking and to lead toward a tobacco-free society.



(The "total" includes 17 respondents not answered their gender.)

Smoking Status among Nurses (JNA members)



[Multiple answers allowed] (N=3,483)

Awareness of Health Risks from Tobacco (cigarette-smoking)

The ICM Asia Pacific Regional Conference

The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2015 is to be held in Yokohama, Japan. The Conference, co-hosted by JNA, Japanese Midwives Association and Japan Academy of Midwifery, will be held at Pacifico, Yokohama from July 20th (Mon) to 22nd (Wed), 2015. For details, please visit the following website.

<http://www.icmaprc2015.org/en/index.html>

Midwifery care for every mother and their newborn

The ICM Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2015
 July 20 (Mon) – July 22 (Wed), 2015
 PACIFICO YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

President : Suga Sakamoto (President, Japanese Nursing Association)
 Vice President : Kiyoko Okamoto (President, Japanese Midwives Association)
 Masayo Takada (President, Japan Academy of Midwifery)

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Nursing in Japan

Q Is there a renewal system for nursing licenses in Japan?

No. There is no renewal system for nursing licenses in Japan. Once a nursing license is granted and issued, in general, it will be valid during the life of the holder. As a result, it has been difficult and challenging to grasp a whole perspective of nursing professionals, including the total number of nursing licensees and their employment status.

Only nursing professionals engaged in nursing practice (hereafter, practicing nursing professionals) are obligated by the Act on Public Health Nurses, Midwives and Nurses to notify prefectural governors in their working regions of their employment conditions biennially. The total number of practicing nursing professionals is reported by each prefecture to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW). Therefore, both MHLW and each prefecture are aware of the number of practicing nursing professionals. However, the actual situations of nursing professionals not engaged in nursing practice (hereafter, non-practicing nursing professionals) have been unknown.

Under the current system, it has been urged to provide support relevant to needs of nursing professionals, including non-practicing ones, and to work toward a solution for a nursing shortage amplified by a decline in the number of children and an uneven distribution of nursing professionals.

By the revision of the Act on Assurance of Work Forces of Nurses and Other Medical Experts (please refer to page 1 for details), a notification system is established that obligates nursing professionals to make an effort to notify prefectural nurse centers, regardless of their employment status, such as when leaving nursing jobs. This is not about a renewal system, but it is expected that the newly revised Act will enable the nurse centers to secure connections with non-practicing nursing professionals and to implement comprehensive and attentive services for reinstatement.