



JAPAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION^{*1}

Masami ISHII¹

The Japan Medical Association (JMA) would like to highlight our activities from the last one year in our country report.

At first, Dr. Yoshitake Yokokura was re-elected as a President of JMA, and his term is 2014 June to 2016 June (Slide 1).

In anticipation of 2025, when baby boomers will become late-stage elderly, the development of a system of health care that comprehensively supports the community in the public universal health insurance system that is based on family physicians who are not just gatekeepers but actively coordinate care, should be carried out through functional specialization of and cooperation among hospitals, provision of adequate in-home health care and long-term care, recruiting and retaining health care personnel, and improvements in the workplace environment.

The way of providing health care for the people will change along with this, and the demands and trends in society will also change (Slide 3).

By 2040, this demographic shift will also place some localities at risk of disappearing due to reduced population. But people are unable to live in a place without health care.

The policy to provide care which incorporates health care and long-term care. Cooperative efforts are seen between the central government and the JMA, local government and local medical associations, and municipalities and municipal medical associations to work together under the plan for health care and long-term care in each stage. A “New Foundation” will be used to facilitate these efforts (Slide 5).

Health care is an indispensable lifeline and also the basis for community building.

When thinking about the future of Japan and the coming super-aging society, medical associations that know the community and stand with the community must build a comprehensive

community care system that provides integrated, appropriate health care, long-term care, welfare, and livelihood services in a community network centered on family physicians.

The JMA must also cultivate family physicians and develop their capabilities in the aging society.

To establish a comprehensive community health care system, it is necessary to amend the related laws such as “Law on Promotion of Comprehensive Security of Medical Care and Nursing Care in Communities,” “Medical Care Law” and “Long-term Care Insurance Act” to ensure comprehensive promotion of health care and long-term care (Slide 7).

A comprehensive system that provides proper medical services, long-term care, welfare, and daily services in centralized fashion.

The goal is to secure everyone a place to live where they can be comfortable in their home community until death.

The basic stance of the JMA toward future development of health care is supported by the following two pillars.

One is to revitalization of local cities led by the local medical associations cooperating with the local governments and occupations of various kinds.

The other one is that the local governments should learn and incorporate various cases from other local areas as example and use these to establish the provision system for medical and nursing care which fit the local cultures of individual communities (Slide 8).

Our country’s public debt is over 1,000 trillion yen or ca.10 billion USD, and economic growth is sluggish. Furthermore, the working age population in Japan is projected to shrink by 20% in the future.

Under these conditions, the costs of social

^{*1} This article is based on a presentation made as the Report of Activities by each NMA at the 29th CMAAO General Assembly and 50th Council Meeting, Manila, the Philippines, on September 24-26, 2014.

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insurance, mainly for health care and long-term care, are projected to rise, so in the future, policies called “regulatory reform” or “growth strategies” will continue to bring pressure to restrict the scope of insurance benefits from the standpoint of tight budget.

Repeated health care reforms driven by fiscal concerns have and will continue to run the risk of leading to the collapse of universal health insurance in Japan.

Even now there have been loud cries for regulatory reform to reduce “excessive medical care” and the move towards commercialization of the core of medical care has accelerated.

Continue to maintain a critical attitude for future government policies, judging according to the criteria of whether these policies contribute to safe health care for the people and whether these policies can protect universal health insurance through public health insurance.

To build a society in which there is neither too much nor too little health care necessary for all people, we must promote lifelong health programs, extend the healthy life expectancy, and

advance reforms appropriate for the times, while at the same time we must preserve universal health insurance that is sustainable.

The JMA has called for the medical community to come together and become even more unified for redevelopment of community health care by working toward solutions to the various problems that are affecting health care.

Along with urging the construction of a health care provision system compatible with the actual situation in our communities, we have also clarified specific goals for facing the super-aged society that is coming in 2025.

What is most important is the position of standing with the people. This is because our duty as a physician is to help provide decent and healthy living for the people throughout their entire lives.

The real task of nation building is to make a society in which people can live healthy and secure lives, as well as to raise people who are able to support such a society.

Health care is certainly at the root of such a society.

The 29th CMAAO General Assembly & 50th Council Meeting
September 24-26, 2014, Manila Marriott Hotel, Manila, Philippines

Country Report Japan Medical Association

Masami Ishii, MD
Executive Board Member
Japan Medical Association

Re- elected as the JMA President, 2014.6-2016.6 Dr. Yoshitake Yokokura

In these past two years, with the slogans of continuity and reform and from the community to the nation, I have called for the medical community to come together and become even more unified for redevelopment of community health care by working toward solutions to the various problems that are affecting health care.

Along with urging the construction of a health care provision system compatible with the actual situation in our communities, I have also clarified specific goals for facing the super-aged society that is coming in 2025.



Form Presidential Policy Address

1

To Support Community (1)

In anticipation of 2025, when baby boomers will become late-stage elderly, the development of a system of health care that comprehensively supports the community in the public universal health insurance system that is based on family care physicians who are not just gatekeepers but actively coordinate care should be carried out through functional specialization of and cooperation among hospitals, provision of adequate in-home health care and long-term care, recruiting and retaining health care personnel, and improvements in the workplace environment.

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To Support Community (2)

- The way of providing health care for the people will change along with this, and the demands and trends in society will also change.

Trend of population aging rate

People over 65 / total population

Year 2025	30% and more
2040	36%
2060	39.9%

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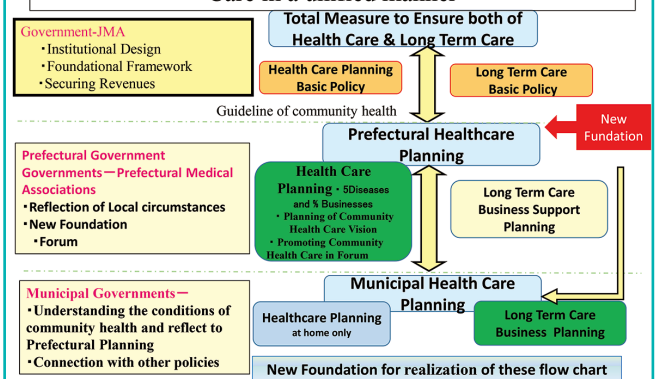
To Support Community (3)

- By 2040, this demographic shift will also place some localities at risk of disappearing due to reduced population.
- But people are unable to live in a place without health care.

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Method of Offering both of Health Care and Long-Term Care in a unified manner



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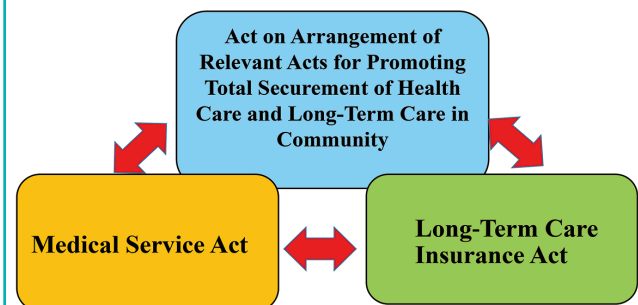
To Support Community Health Care

- Health care is an indispensable lifeline and also the basis for community building.
- When thinking about the future of Japan and the coming super-aging society, medical associations that know the community and stand with the community must build a comprehensive community care system that provides integrated, appropriate health care, long-term care, welfare, and livelihood services in a community network centered on family care physicians.
- The JMA must also cultivate family care physicians and develop their capabilities in the aging society.

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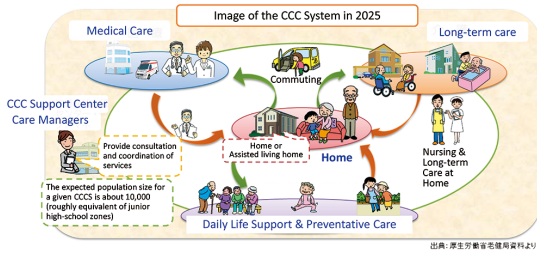
Act on Arrangement of Relevant Acts for Promoting Total Securement of Health Care and Long-Term Care in Community



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Community-based Comprehensive Care System Approach

- A **comprehensive** system that provides proper medical services, long-term care, welfare, and daily services in centralized fashion.
- The goal is to **secure everyone a place to live** where they can be **comfortable in their home community** until death.



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To Think about the Future of Health

- Our country's public debt is over 1,000 trillion yen or ca.10 billion USD, and economic growth is sluggish. Furthermore, the working age population in Japan is projected to shrink by 20% in the future.
- Under these conditions, the costs of social insurance, mainly for health care and long-term care, are projected to rise, so in the future, policies called "regulatory reform" or "growth strategies" will continue to bring pressure to restrict the scope of insurance benefits from the standpoint of fiscal crisis.

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To Think about the Future of Health

- Repeated health care reforms driven by fiscal concerns have and will continue to run the risk of leading to the collapse of universal health insurance in Japan.
- Even now there have been loud cries for regulatory reform to reduce "excessive medical care" and the move towards commercialization of the core of medical care has accelerated.

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To Government Policies

- Continue to maintain a critical attitude for future government policies, judging according to the criteria of whether these policies contribute to safe health care for the people and whether these policies can protect universal health insurance through public health insurance.
- To build a society in which there is neither too much nor too little health care necessary for all people, we must promote lifelong health programs, extend the healthy life expectancy, and advance reforms appropriate for the times, while at the same time we must preserve universal health insurance that is sustainable.

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Continuity and Reform and from the Community to the Nation

- The JMA has called for the medical community to come together and become even more unified for redevelopment of community health care by working toward solutions to the various problems that are affecting health care.
- Along with urging the construction of a health care provision system compatible with the actual situation in our communities, I have also clarified specific goals for facing the super-aged society that is coming in 2025.

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Position of Standing with the People.

- What is most important is the position of standing with the people. This is because our duty as a physician is to help provide decent and healthy living for the people throughout their entire lives.
- The real task of nation building is to make a society in which people can live healthy and secure lives, as well as to raise people who are able to support such a society.
- Health care is certainly at the root of such a society.

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