

## **New Framework of the Regional Medical System in the Aging Society: From a View of m-Health Economics**

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Due to the rapid transforming to the aging society, one of medical issues relating to the elderly is the reduction of medical expenditures, and the reforms of the current medical systems have been attempting all over the world. For this aim, patients tend to be discharged in the short period from hospital, and this raises the number of elder patients who stay and receive medical services at home. In this situation, healthcare for one elderly patient involves different stakeholders, such as physicians, nurses, public nurses, care takers, and other healthcare providers. These stakeholders as well as patients are located in the different places in the region, and they are required share medical information on the elderly. Wireless devices such as smartphones and tablet PCs, for example, have been increasing to share information in the region. Based on in-depth field surveys on medical institutions and software firms on the usage of wireless devices for patients at home with chronic diseases or cancer of the terminal stage, this paper examines how m-Health promotes efficiency of medical services, reduces costs of services and enhances QoL of such patient and family. Some clinic reported, for instance, that visiting nurses increases their total hours to spend patient's homes from 2.9 to 4.4 hours per day implying they increase their efficiency by nearly 50%. This is due to inputting data and other reports to the mobile devices, instead of writing on the paper by hand. By identifying benefits, the paper attempts to conduct the Cost/Benefit Analysis of m-Health. Although m-Health has this kind of large potentiality to solve current medical issues, there are still many obstacles for further diffusion and this paper suggests necessary deregulation on medical services and technological improvements. The former includes reimbursement of m-Health from medical insurance, while the latter standardization and common interface of m-Health equipment.

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