

Trends in Departments of General Medicine in University Hospitals in Japan Searched from Websites

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Abstract

Objectives: In Japan, 18 clinical departments are approved as medical by a government. Recently, general medicine has been decided to be a department of a basic medical field. But it is unclear whether University Hospitals have departments of general medicine. So the present condition and prehension of the actual situation of the General Medicine are aims.

Methods: We investigated official websites of 81 University Hospitals in February 2017, then investigated a name of the department and details of a clinical service.

Results: Sixty-nine hospitals (85.2%) has the departments of General Medicine, of which, “the departments of General Medicine” and “General Internal Medicine” are the major name. Of clinical services, numbers of outpatient clinic were 37 (53.6%), outpatient clinic plus hospitalized care were 20 (29.0%), and outpatient clinic, hospitalized care plus emergency department were 11 (15.9%). In Japan, most of clinical departments belong to the department in Faculty of Medicine, named “Koza”. We then checked whether the department of General Medicine in University Hospitals belonged to Koza. Fifty-two out of 69 General Medicine departments (75.4%) belonged to Koza. Names of Koza tended to include “general medicine”, “local community”, “family medicine” and “general internal medicine”. In Faculty of Medicine, 39 Koza out of 34 university did not give a medical service but an education about General Medicine to the medical students.

Conclusions: The department of General Medicine in the University Hospitals in Japan had a diversity in names and medical services.

Key words: General Medicine; general internal medicine; family practice; regional medicine; primary care