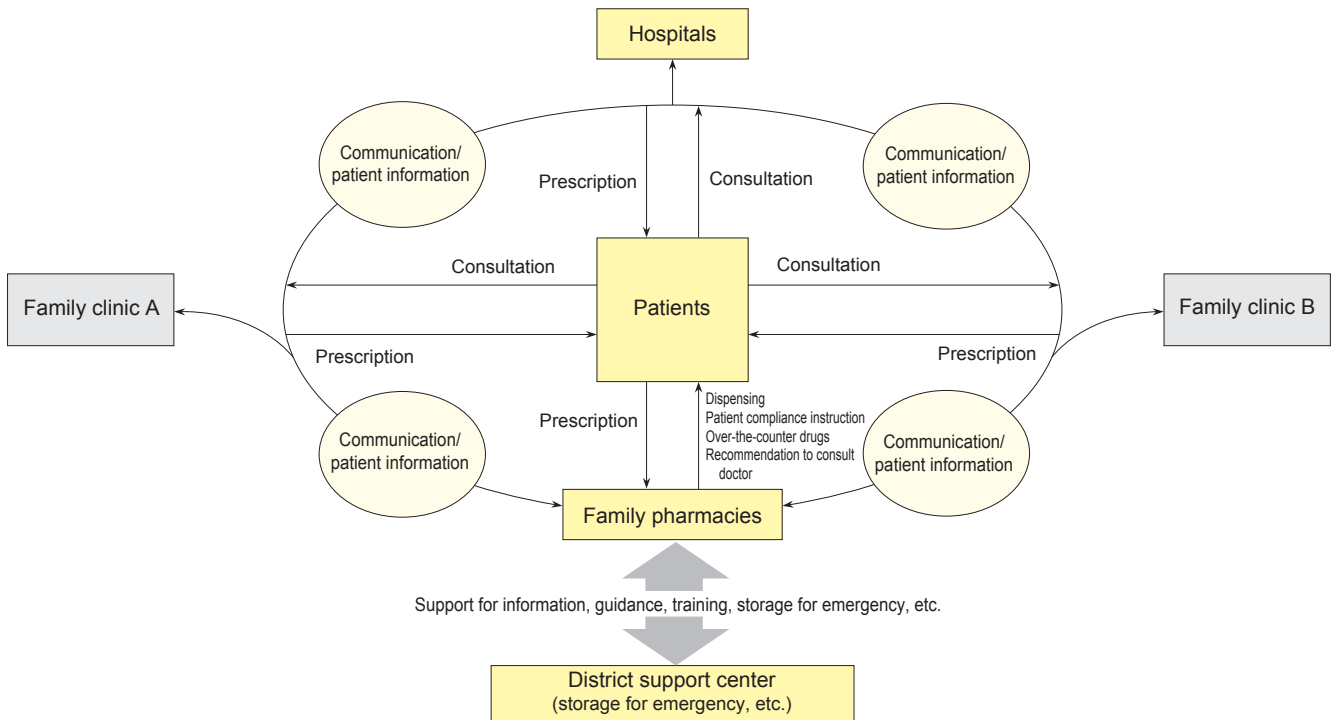


Overview

The System of Separation of Dispensing and Prescribing Drugs



[Advantages of Separation of Dispensing and Prescribing Drugs]

- 1) Doctors and dentists can freely prescribe drugs necessary for patients even when the particular drugs are not stocked in their own hospitals or clinics.
- 2) Issuing prescriptions to patients allows them to know which drugs they are taking.
- 3) "Family pharmacies" can check for duplicate prescriptions, drugs interactions, etc. offered by multiple facilities through drug history management and thus improve efficacy and safety of drug therapies.
- 4) Reduced outpatient dispensing work of hospital pharmacists allows them to engage in hospital activities for inpatients which they should essentially perform.
- 5) Pharmacists, in cooperation with prescribing physicians and dentists, will explain effects, side effects, directions for use, etc. of drugs to patients (patient compliance instruction) so that patients improve their understanding on drugs and are expected to take dispensed drugs as directed leading to improved efficacy and safety of drug therapies.

Detailed Data

Changes in the Number of Pharmacies and Prescriptions

FY	Number of pharmacies	Number of prescriptions per year (10,000)	Number of prescriptions per 1,000 people per month	prescribing drugs (%)
1989	36,670	13,542	95.2	11.3
1990	36,981	14,573	105.4	12.0
1991	36,979	15,957	111.7	12.8
1992	37,532	17,897	125.8	14.1
1993	38,077	20,149	140.6	15.8
1994	38,773	23,501	161.0	18.1
1995	39,433	26,508	182.5	20.3
1996	40,310	29,643	210.0	22.5
1997	42,412	33,782	238.1	26.0
1998	44,085	40,006	278.8	30.5
1999	45,171	45,537	307.3	34.8
2000	46,763	50,620	348.6	39.5
2001	48,252	55,960	393.7	44.5
2002	49,332	58,462	393.0	48.8
2003	49,956	59,812	418.8	51.6
2004	50,600	61,889	368.7	53.8
2005	51,233	64,508	425.2	54.1
2006	51,952	66,083	442.5	55.8
2007	52,539	68,375	481.0	57.2
2008	53,304	69,436	483.0	59.1

Source: Number of pharmacies as of December 31 in each year until 1996 and of the end of each fiscal year since 1997 by Pharmaceutical and Food Safety Bureau, MHLW and number of prescriptions

Number of prescriptions and nationwide average rate of separation by Japan Pharmaceutical Association

(Note) The rate of separation of dispensing and prescribing drugs is calculated as follows:

$$\text{The rate of separation of dispensing and prescribing drugs (\%)} = \frac{\text{The number of prescriptions to pharmacies}}{\text{The number of prescriptions issued to outpatients (total)}} \times 100$$