

ORGANIZATION OF PHARMACY IN JAPAN

Nazarkina V.N., Kurylenko Yu.Ye.

National University of Pharmacy, Kharkiv, Ukraine

economica@ukr.net

Japan is an economically developed country with a high level of health sector and pharmacy in particular. Health care spending in Japan was 12.3% of GDP (\$4,025 per person) and life expectancy was 85.3 years. Therefore, it is relevant to conduct a study on the functioning of the pharmacy business in Japan. The purpose of the study is to analyze the organization of the pharmaceutical sector in Japan, namely the features of the work of pharmacies.

The work of pharmacists in Japan is fully computerized. Each patient has personal files with vacation history and appointments.

The relationship between pharmacies and doctors is well developed. Pharmacists working in pharmacies should advise patients on the peculiarities of medication and have the position of primary care pharmacists. They counsel patients 24 hours a day. Despite the high need for pharmacists, their salaries are low and average \$ 45,000. USA per year. At 10 thousand residents account for 15.2 specialists, and more than 60% of all practicing pharmacists are women. All pharmacies in Japan are divided into prescription and over-the-counter.

Thus, in pharmacies with prescription leave (approximately 31 thousand), all drugs are available only on prescription. When buying medicines there, patients pay only 30% of the cost, and the remaining 70% of the price is covered by health insurance. Prescription drugs are released only within 4 days after its issuance, after which the prescription is considered invalid.

Over 80% of the pharmacy's turnover is prescription drugs, with the rest coming from over-the-counter pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and dietary supplements. The number of prescription drugs should be no more than 14 days of treatment and, in the case of long-term therapy, no more than 28 days.

At the same time, the doctor refers his patients for medication to a specific prescription pharmacy located near the hospital. It is impossible to reuse the written recipe. If the patient needs to continue treatment, he should go to the doctor again and write a new prescription.

In recent years, there has been a clear trend in Japan towards the division of drug distribution duties between general practitioners and pharmacists. Currently, almost half of Japanese patients prefer to receive medicines not directly from a general practitioner or in hospitals, but in pharmacies. Over-the-counter pharmacies, which are more like supermarkets, sell mostly over-the-counter drugs, as well as cosmetics, shampoos, hygiene products, herbal supplements, and even some foods and beverages.

Many over-the-counter pharmacies do not have two doors, and all products are displayed on open shelves. The sale of prescription drugs in Japan is subject to strict rules.

Despite the positive trend in the healthcare industry, the low birth rate is a problem, which can subsequently negatively affect all government areas in Japan.