



International Network of
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Rural Healthcare-Crossing Geographical Gaps and Implementing Medical Equality

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INTRODUCTION

Optimizing services in areas with insufficient medical resources should be one of the tools for universal health insurance to practice social justice and implement medical equality. Taiwan due to factors, such as transportation, population distribution, and population structure, medical services in remote islands are relatively insufficient. The age-adjusted death rate in rural areas is higher than that in urban areas.

Over the years, under the continuous promotion of Taiwan's health insurance policy, the medical resources, and emergency medical networks in rural areas have been gradually gathered. This reduces the transportation and time costs for people seeking medical treatment remotely and also provides timely medical treatment for patients with urgent medical needs. Serve. This study mainly aims to examine whether the doctor and Advanced Practice Nurses investment in rural medical care in 2022 would improve the public's medical utilization and medical accessibility.

MATERIALS

This study adopted the intentional sampling method and the data was collected in 2022. The outpatients of the rural medical treatment in the case hospital were taken as the research object, and the satisfaction survey form was completed by the medical staff. The case hospital health insurance data was used for analysis.

RESULTS

This study found that the overall implementation of western medicine in improving medical care in rural areas could reach 15.2% of the residents' medical treatment rate in towns where individual medical cases were implemented. The three items with the highest satisfaction of above 99% among rural touring medical residents were: doctors' service attitude, touring medical time, and communication skills, and the lowest was medical equipment. This study also found that the common diseases in remote areas were: knee osteoarthritis, unspecified site osteoarthritis, lower back pain, other lumbosacral degenerative spondylitis with radiculopathy, and calcified tendons on the left shoulder inflammation.

CONCLUSION

The government's subsidy program and doctor's active participation would help improve the accessibility and satisfaction of people in remote areas. This would be in line with the goal of medical equality and health protection for people.