

Title: The actual state of home-care waste disposal at home-visit nursing in Japan

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Abstract: I conducted a questionnaire survey with the aim of figure out the problems involved in the disposal of infectious waste at home-visit nursing stations, in its handling during nursing-care home visits, *etc.* From among the home-visit nursing stations registered at the National Association for Home-visit Nursing Care, 1,965 stations were selected at random, and questionnaires were sent to them. Nurses at 1,309 stations (66.6%) responded to the survey. After excluding 26 stations that were closed, an analysis of the remaining 1,283 stations was made. It was found that 79.4% of the nurses recovered medical waste from the patients' homes when they visited them. The most frequently observed supplies not recovered were injection needles, tubes and bags. It is mentioned that a home nursing station has various problems characteristically according to the area, parent company, the situation as showing in the last free opinion from visiting nurse. I thought that these opinions may be classified broadly into following main five categories. 1. Necessity of manual. 2. Lack of understanding of doctors. 3. Lack of understanding in municipalities. 4. Education for family. 5. Financial burden for disposal. The results obtained in this study, the future at troubled about the medical waste disposal; each must be expected to help.

Key words: medical waste, home-visit nursing, home-care waste disposal