

## Necessity of pharmacists for better infection control and greater patient safety

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With the revisions to the Japanese medical institutions law of April 2006, the improved medical care security system in a medical institution is indispensable. More and more medical institutions are now assigning full-time pharmacists to medical safety rooms. Furthermore, hospital pharmacy sections utilize the valid evaluation system by the Japan Council for Quality Health Care. Pharmaceutical specialists who contribute to medical security, such as certified oncology pharmacists and certified infection control pharmacists (CICPha) are much awaited. In addition, the DPC (Diagnosis Procedure Combination) system has now become widespread in Japan, and the call is for pharmaceutical care that can decrease medical costs. It is imperative for health care systems to assure the appropriate use of drugs to decrease medical costs without reducing medical services. CICPha can contribute to the antimicrobial management program, and has also focused on medical care security. Several antimicrobial management programs of broad-spectrum agents, i.e., formulary restriction and prior approval, have been gradually enforced in Japan. The CICPha role is far-reaching, and it should make a concerted effort to prevent the injudicious use of antimicrobial agents resulting in the emergence of drug resistance, which must be handled by infection control doctors, and infection control nurses, along with microbiological technicians. The CICPha must regulate the appropriate use of antimicrobial agents, and perform surveillance of antimicrobial use and resistance (AUR). We describe the introduction of AUR in our hospital, and also underscore the necessity of training clinical pharmacists who will contribute to medical safety management in days to come.