

Appendix 1. Characteristics of nursing homes and residents in this study and in the mandatory survey conducted by the Ministry of Health Labor and Welfare (MHLW) in Japan

Characteristics of nursing homes (as proportions to the total number of beds in nursing homes)		This study <i>n</i> =60,766	MHLW's study <i>n</i> =314,192
Ownership/founder	Social welfare organization	86%	87%
	Others, including public sector	14%	13%
The number of beds in each geographic region	Hokkaido	5%	5%
	Touhoku	12%	10%
	Kanto	23%	24%
	Chubu	20%	16%
	Kansai	13%	17%
	Chugoku/Shikoku	12%	13%
	Kyushyu	15%	15%
Staffing level ^a (mean \pm SD)		2.6 \pm 0.4	2.5 ^b
Characteristics of residents who died in nursing homes		This study <i>n</i> =1,500	MHLW's study <i>n</i> =814
Age	<75	4%	5%
	75-79	8%	7%
	80-84	15%	17%
	85-89	24%	25%
	90-94	49%	46%
Male gender		23%	23%
LOS in nursing homes (year)		15%	15%

	1-2	13%	18%
	2-5	32%	30%
	>5	40%	37%
Eligibility level in the public	Care required 1 (the lowest	2%	2%
long-term care insurance	level)		
	Care required 2	5%	4%
	Care required 3	9%	11%
	Care required 4	23%	24%
	Care required 5 (the highest	61%	59%
	level)		

^a The number of residents per staff (licensed nurses and care workers).

^b The MHLW survey did not provide standard deviation (SD).

Appendix 2. Resident characteristics based on the site of death

	Nursing homes	Hospitals	<i>P</i> value ^a
Resident Characteristics	<i>n</i> =1,500	<i>n</i> =2,675	
Age (mean ± SD)	88.5 ± 7.2	86.4 ± 7.5	<0 .001
Male gender (%)	342 (23%)	815 (31%)	< 0.001
Length of stay in nursing homes (mean ± SD)	5.1 ± 4.6	3.9 ± 3.7	<0.001
Activity of daily living			< 0.001
Independent	25 (2%)	84 (3%)	
Needs some help	85 (6%)	358 (14%)	
Mainly in bed, but able to sit	347 (23%)	919 (35%)	
Bed ridden	1,020 (69%)	1,265 (48%)	
Cognitive function			< 0.001
Intact	103 (7%)	323 (13%)	
Slightly impaired	150 (10%)	362 (14%)	
Moderately impaired	329 (23%)	687 (26%)	
Severely impaired	873 (59%)	1,226 (47%)	
Disease diagnoses			
Cancer	171 (12%)	287 (11%)	0.513
Cardiac disease	433 (30%)	890 (35%)	0.003
Cerebrovascular disease	845 (59%)	1,530 (60%)	0.546
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	105 (7%)	172 (7%)	0.483
Chronic renal failure	95 (7%)	198 (8%)	0.190
Diabetes	111 (8%)	306 (12%)	<0.001
Fracture	175 (12%)	301 (12%)	0.695
Hypertension	464 (33%)	800 (32%)	0.499

Hospitalization three months prior to death	181 (12%)	627 (24%)	<0.001
Cause of death			
Cancer	107 (7%)	213 (8%)	0.236
Heart failure	787 (53%)	840 (32%)	< 0.001
Pneumonia	277 (19%)	892 (35%)	< 0.001
Stroke	109 (7%)	218 (8%)	0.215
Others	104 (14%)	250 (17%)	0.004
Resident's preference			
Dying in nursing home	380 (26%)	224 (9%)	< 0.001
Dying in hospital	1 (0.1%)	88 (3%)	< 0.001
Dying at home	114 (8%)	225 (9%)	0.357
Not known	989 (66%)	2,099 (79%)	< 0.001
Family's preference			
Dying in nursing home	1278 (86%)	591 (23%)	< 0.001
Dying in hospital	29 (2%)	880 (34%)	< 0.001
Dying at home	18 (1%)	66 (2%)	0.005
Not known ^c	157 (11%)	1056 (41%)	< 0.001
Preference for the site of death expressed either by residents or families			
Dying in nursing home	1,248 (87%)	621 (24%)	< 0.001
Dying in hospital	29 (2%)	860 (33%)	< 0.001
Dying at home	12 (1%)	38 (1%)	0.068
Not known	185 (10%)	1,066 (42%)	< 0.001

^a P value was based on either t-test or chi-square.

