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		This study	MHLW's study	
number of beds in nursing home	es)	n=60,766	n=314,192	
Ownership/founder	Social welfare organization	86%	87%	
	Others, including public sector	14%	13%	
The number of beds in each	Hokkaido	5%	5%	
geographic region				
	Touhoku	12%	10%	
	Kanto	23%	24%	
	Chubu	20%	16%	
	Kansai	13%	17%	
	Chugoku/Shikoku	12%	13%	
	Kyushyu	15%	15%	
Staffing level ^a (mean ± SD)		2.6 ± 0.4	2.5 ^b	
Characteristics of residents who)	This study	MHLW's study	
died in nursing homes		n=1,500	n=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)	<1	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 <i>n</i> =1,500		Hosp	oitals	P value ^a
Resident Characteristics			n=2,675		
Age (mean ± SD)	88.5 ± 7.2		86.4 ± 7.5		
Male gender (%)	342	(23%)	815	(31%)	< 0.001
Length of stay in nursing homes (mean \pm SD)	5.1 ± 4.6		3.9 ± 3.7		< 0.001
Activity of daily living	ctivity 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.