

Study on Role of Occupational Therapist in Insurance System for Long-term Elderly Care

Seul-Gee Kim¹, Eo-Jin Na¹

¹*Department of Community care, Hamkegulum health cooperative, Seoul, Korea, Democratic People's Republic of, ²Konyang university, Graduate School of Public Health and welfare, Daejeon, Korea, Democratic People's Republic of*

Since the establishment of insurance system for long-term elderly care in July 2008, people aged 65 and over with disability or elderly people under age 65 who have limited ability in operating daily routines due to geriatric disease became qualified to receive long-term care benefit in varying levels. However, currently, home-care service is limited to home-nursing, home-care, home-bathing and subsidy for purchase of welfare goods. Service for rehabilitation program is not included, which is expected to be problematic in terms of quality management for service users.

The research aims to analyze characteristics of care recipients by different care levels according to insurance system for long-term elderly care. The research also endeavors to provide ground for visit therapy for home-care recipients and introduces cases of approaches for home-visit therapy.

The research was conducted between September and December 2008 for 57 home-care recipients according to long-term elderly care system, who reside in Nowon-gu, Seoul. Two occupational therapists visited participants' houses to collect demographic information and to survey level of service demand. They also assessed participants' ability in operating daily routines as well as their perceptive capability.

Pearson coefficient was calculated to examine correlation between level of care service and ability for operating daily routines. The result showed that the total score of the assessment had significant correlation with ability for operating daily routines in the following order: putting on clothes, bathing, moving to sit on a chair car, personal hygiene, mobility, using bathroom, and control of urination. Multiple regression analysis in a stepwise selection method was conducted to identify factors that affected level of long-term elderly care. Disability level, self-care ability and mobility turned out to have significant influence on the care level in long-term elderly care system.

Disability level and self-care ability had significant influence on care service level. This indicates that long-term care service successfully meets patients' need for assistance in daily living. However, excessive care may overlook patients' potential and they might miss an opportunity to restore some of physical functions. Occupational therapist supervises quality during service delivery process as well as monitoring direct service for the users.