

Project to Collect and Pharmaceutical Near-Miss Event Information

Division of Adverse Event Prevention

◆ Project Outline

1. Background

According to the Health Service Act revised in June 2006, pharmacies are defined as health care facilities like hospitals and clinics. The revised Health Service Act mandates the following safety measures at pharmacies.

- 1) Establishing guidelines for safety management
- 2) Staff training for safety management
- 3) Thorough reporting of accidents on drug dispensing to the pharmacy manager
- 4) Installing pharmacy practice manual for safe use and management of drugs

2. Current status of near-miss events occurring

About 30% of the near-miss events reported to the Japan Council for Quality Health Care (JCQHC) from medical institutions are related to drugs (2008 Annual Report). Since more than a half of outpatients have their prescriptions dispensed at pharmacies, quite a number of near-miss events are thought to occur at pharmacies.

3. Objective

The objective of the Project is to further promote medical safety by providing health professionals in pharmacies and the general public with relevant information as well as to share information useful to develop preventive measures by collecting and analyzing near-miss events from pharmacies and widely providing with the result of analysis.

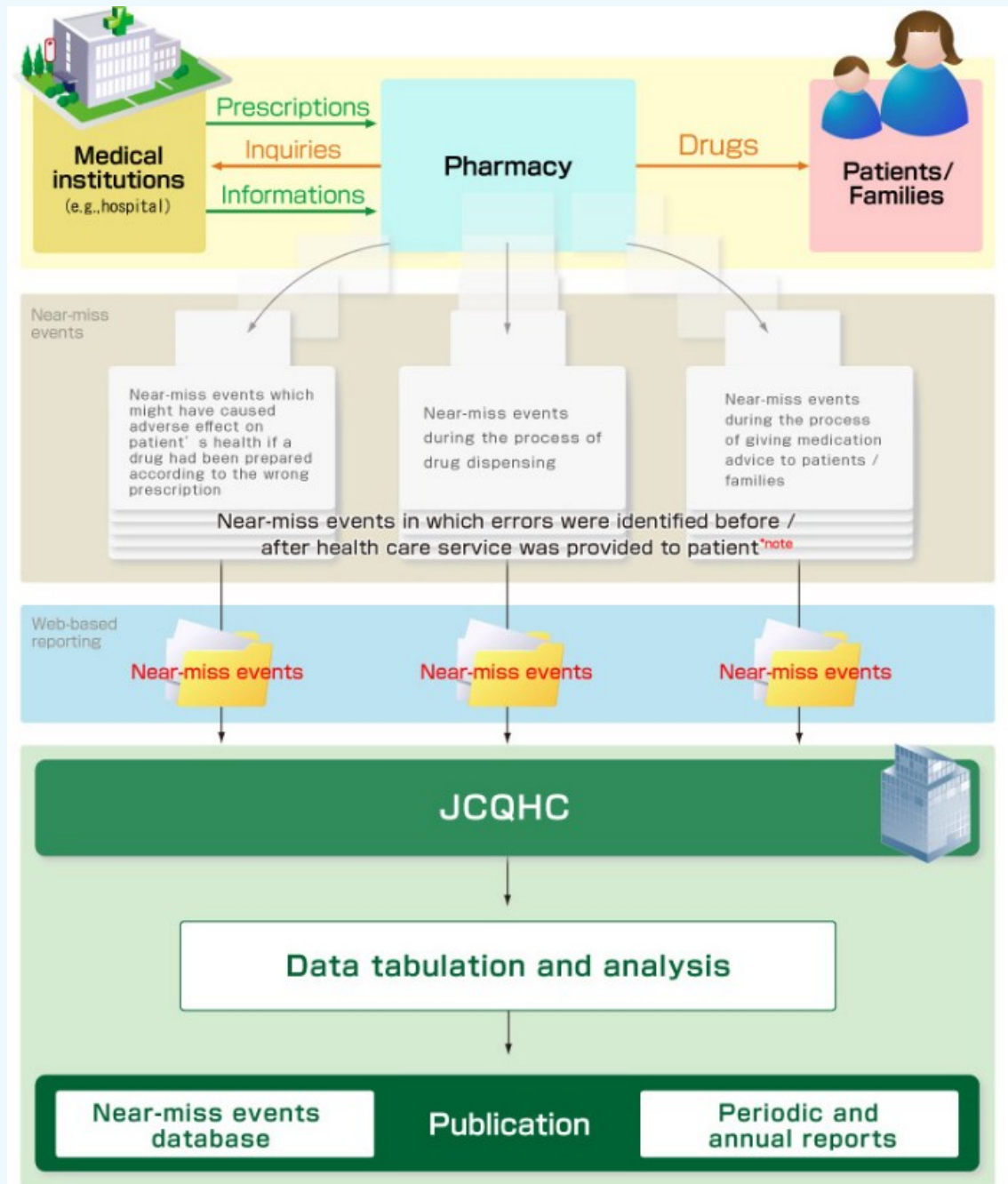
4. Features of dispensing at pharmacies

Unlike dispensing facilities of hospitals, pharmacies have the following unique features:

- 1) To discover potential risks of multiplication dispensing of the same drugs or drug-drug interactions because some patients consult physicians at multiple institutions/clinics

- 2) To sell products other than prescribed drugs, such as OTC drugs and in-pharmacy formulations
- 3) To switch from a prescribed drug to a generic
- 4) Pharmacy practice manual for safe use and management of drugs

5. Examples of near-miss events occurred at pharmacies are released



6. Information Dissemination

2009 Annual Report and Pharmaceutical near-miss event analysis table No.1-5 can be perused from the following website.

<http://www.yakkyoku-hiyari.jcqhc.or.jp/contents/english/index.html>

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