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Social Work Practice with Chronic Illness: Recent Movement under Health Care Reform

ABSTRACT

Social workers in health care have paid attention to chronic illness patients and their families. Now, social work with chronic illness has become a more important area for social work in health care, because of the increase in health care costs.

This article examined health care reform and its impact on social work with chronic illness patients and their families. Under health care reform with financial restrictions, especially in the care for chronic illness patients and their families, a social worker is required to provide services which satisfy both client needs and cost-effectiveness. Social work in health care is rapidly changing, and the future tasks of social work in Japan are proposed.

Key Words : social work, chronic illness, health care reform