

Appendix 1. Physicians demographic and profession characteristics [n(%)]

Variable	Physicians in different level hospitals			P-value
	Tertiary care hospital physicians (n = 461)	Secondary care hospital physicians (n = 307)	Primary care practitioners (n = 382)	
Age (mean years \pm s.d.)	40.82 \pm 9.21	40.42 \pm 8.78	41.27 \pm 8.13	0.215
Male gender	189 (41.00)	158 (51.47)	209 (54.71)	< 0.001
Education level				< 0.001
Technical secondary and below	0 (0)	1 (0.33)	35 (9.16)	
College degree	7 (1.52)	17 (5.54)	107 (28.01)	
Bachelor degree	169 (36.66)	231 (75.24)	213 (55.76)	
Master degree	222 (48.16)	58 (18.89)	26 (6.81)	
Doctoral degree	63 (13.67)	0 (0)	1 (0.26)	
Professional category				< 0.001
TCM	135 (29.28)	76 (24.76)	88 (23.04)	
Integrated traditional Chinese medicine and western medicine	137 (29.72)	89 (28.99)	81 (21.20)	
Modern clinical medicine	188 (40.78)	140 (45.60)	200 (52.36)	
Other categories	1 (0.22)	2 (0.65)	13 (3.40)	
Years in practice (mean years \pm s.d.)	15.50 \pm 9.82	15.12 \pm 9.00	17.30 \pm 9.05	0.001
Technical title				< 0.001
Junior (Resident physicians)	71 (15.40)	53 (17.26)	170 (44.50)	
Intermediate (Attending physicians)	131 (28.42)	121 (39.41)	137 (35.86)	
Sub-senior (Associate chief physicians)	138 (29.93)	92 (29.97)	67 (17.54)	
Senior (Chief physicians)	121 (26.25)	41 (13.36)	8 (2.09)	
Diabetes practice setting				< 0.001
Department of endocrinology and diabetes	327 (70.93)	171 (55.70)	11 (2.88)	
Department of general practice	14 (3.04)	13 (4.23)	212 (55.50)	
Other departments	120 (26.03)	123 (40.07)	159 (41.63)	
Number of patients with diabetes (per week)				< 0.001
None	4 (0.87)	2 (0.65)	9 (2.36)	
1 ~ 10	99 (21.48)	75 (24.43)	163 (42.67)	
11 ~ 50	133 (28.85)	120 (39.09)	150 (39.27)	
51 ~ 100	115 (24.95)	60 (19.54)	44 (11.52)	
101 ~ 300	98 (21.26)	36 (11.73)	15 (3.93)	
\geq 301	12 (2.6)	14 (4.56)	1 (0.26)	