

**Health information seekers in Japan: a snapshot of needs, behavior, and recognition in 2008**

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**APPENDIX**

**Health information seekers in Japan survey**

**Questions on health information**

To all:

Q1. Are you currently, or have you, a family member, or someone close to you ever visited a doctor or taken medicine for illness or injury over the last 2 years? (Check all that apply)

1. Yes, I have or I do
2. Yes, my family member or a person close to me has or does
3. No

Q2. Have you looked for information on health or medical issues (e.g., conditions, treatment, drugs, hospitals, and physicians) in the last 2 years? Include asking questions to a doctor or someone else such as your friend. (Check one)

1. Yes
2. No Go to the Question 6

To those who answered “Yes” for Q2:

Thinking about the last time you looked for information on health or medical issues:

Q3-1. On which topics did you search? (Check all that apply)

Q3-2. What did you want to know about the most? Choose one topic which is the most appropriate (Check one)

	Q3-1 (all)	Q3-2 (one)	
1. Doctors and/or hospitals	1	1	Go to Question 4 and answer the question on the topic you wanted to know about the most.
2. Specific disease and/or conditions	2	2	
3. Drugs	3	3	
4. Treatment and/or surgery	4	4	
5. Mental health (e.g., depression, anxiety, and/or stress)	5	5	
6. Health insurance and/or health care cost	6	6	
7. Nutrition, diet therapy, vitamins and/or health food	7	7	
8. Exercise and/or fitness	8	8	
9. Alternative medicine (e.g., traditional Oriental medicine, acupuncture, moxibustion)	9	9	
10. Other (Specify:)	10	10	

Answer the following questions on the topic you wanted to know about the most:

Q4-1. What did you do to find information on the topic you chose at Q3-2? (Check all that apply)

Q4-2. Which way as the most useful or helpful? Choose #12 if you think nothing was useful (Check only one).

	Q4-1 (all)	Q4-2 (one)	
1. Read information on the Internet	1	1	
2. Read brochures provided at a hospital	2	2	
3. Read books	3	3	
4. Read magazines	4	4	
5. Read newspaper articles	5	5	
6. Ask a doctor	6	6	Go to Question 5
7. Ask a nurse	7	7	
8. Ask a pharmacist	8	8	
9. Ask a lay person (e.g., a family member, a relative or a friend)	9	9	
10. Watch TV or listen to the radio	10	10	
11. Other (Specify:)	11	11	
12. Nothing was useful	12	12	Go to Question 6

Answer the following question on the information through the way you chose in Q4-2:

Q5. What was the impact of the information? Was your decision or behavior affected? Choose the most appropriate statement below. (Check one)

1. Affected the decision about how to treat an illness or condition
2. Affected the choice of doctors or hospitals
3. Led you to ask a primary care doctor a new question or to get a second opinion
4. Changed the way you coped with the illness or pain
5. Relieved or comforted
6. Other (Specify:)

To all:

Q6. Thinking about your family member or someone else close to you having a serious illness or injury and needing to be hospitalized or having surgery, do you want to read *articles published in academic or professional medical journals to get the latest information*? Choose the statement which is the most appropriate (Check one)

1. I would want to read one, even if it was written in English
2. I would want to read one, if it was free of charge.
3. I would want to read one, if it was written in Japanese.
4. I would want to read one, if it was written in Japanese and free of charge.
5. I would not want to read any, because I don't understand academic or professional articles.
6. I don't know.

To all:

Q7. Into which category does your profession fall? (Check one)

1. Medical researcher or health professional
2. Researcher other than in the field of medicine or clinical care
3. Librarian or searcher
4. None of the above

\* The cover sheet of the survey included demographic questions (i.e., age, sex, residential area, city scale, family income, educational background, and employment).