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Supply and demand of health care service for the elderly in west China

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Purpose: In the present study, we investigated the supply and demand of health care service for the elderly in West China, so as to provide scientific data for building the elderly care service system.

Methods: The elderly (≥ 60 years) were enrolled from 9 provinces in the west China between December 2016 and August 2017 by various sampling methods. The elderly's demographic data were collected. We used the questionnaire Demand of Health Care Service for The Elderly to investigate the supply and demand of health care service for the elderly in West China. All participants completed the questionnaire by themselves.

Results: A total of 7541 participants were enrolled from nine provinces in the west China. The most demanded health care service were periodic physical examination (66.1%), disease monitoring (64.2%), respect (62.7%), guidance for the chronic disease (59.3%) and guidance for disease monitoring (58.4%). The most not demanded were catheter care (70.4%), fracture care (69.8%), wound care (69.1%), sex guide (69.0%) and language rehabilitation (67.8%). The most demanded but not supplied were community first aid (39.9%), green channel (39.5%), emergency call (39.2%), first aid guide (36.8%) and guidance for the chronic disease (36.6%).

Conclusion: Our findings indicated that health monitoring and health education were most demanded among the elderly in West China. Emergency support and chronic disease management should be supplied more to meet the demands. The government, hospital and society should supply more health care service focusing on the above aspects to perfect the elderly care service system.

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