

MEDICAL CENTER ACCREDITATION IN TAIWAN — HOW TO EVALUATE EXCELLENCE?

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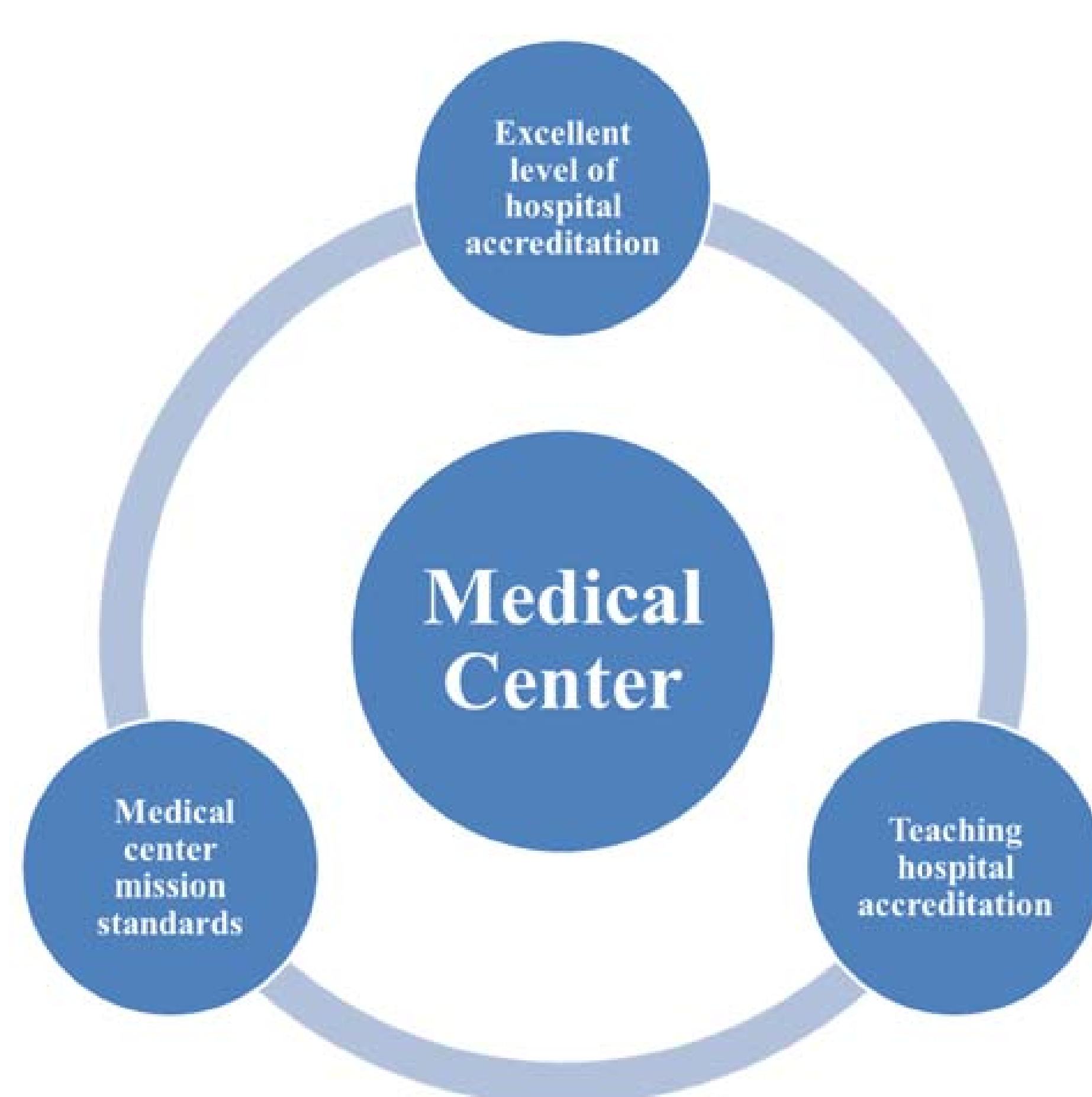
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Objective

In Taiwan, hospitals have been divided into three levels, the medical center, regional hospital and district hospital.

Medical centers is the top level in Taiwan medical care system. According to the statistical data in 2016, there are 19 medical centers occupied 5.4% of total amount of hospitals in Taiwan. However, they would influence the whole medical system tremendously. That is why medical centers always play important roles as leading and supporting other hospitals. How to establish medical center accreditation system in order to ensure it will improve medical quality and conform with the public expectation is very important.

Figure 1: Conditions for being a medical center



Results

The accreditation system of medical center had discussed since 2001. It considered that the medical centers should provide emergency and intensive cares, physicians and other paramedical training, and new medical equipment and drugs researches. Due to these tasks, JCT(Joint Commission of Taiwan) established the accreditation standards of the medical center in guiding these hospitals to promote the quality of medical care. In addition, with the government's expectation, medical center has its missions. Therefore, JCT held meetings to discuss the roles of the medical center since 2005, and rebuilt "Medical Center Mission Standards". It started the era of Taiwan medical center accreditation system. After several pilot surveys, the accreditation of the medical center formally implemented in 2011. There were certain requirements for applying medical center accreditation. First of all, the hospital has to qualify legal requirement in medical institutional setting. Second, it can provide over 25 psychiatric acute beds and 25 divisions of medical services. Third, it should access to two qualifications—"Emergency responsible hospital in severely level" and "Cancer-care Quality Certification Program". To consider in balancing distribution of medical resources and reduce the payment growth of medical expenses in Taiwan. The numbers of the medical centers were limited. The hospital should also qualified the excellent level of hospital accreditation, teaching hospital accreditation and medical center mission standards(Figure 1).

Furthermore, they were ranked by total scores for final position. In 2011 to 2014, there were 23 hospitals applied medical center accreditation. All of hospitals were qualified with the requirements. They could provide high quality of teaching, researching, and severe disease service process. However, due to the limited number, only 19 hospitals classified as "Medical Center".

Methods

Literature review and analysis method were adopted to explore the medical center survey record in the past, and the comments about the accreditation system of medical center collecting from experienced surveyors, accredited hospital and professional associations.

Conclusion

The missions of medical centers are leading the development of medical-related innovative researches, holistic education, severe disease curing, social responsibility, and national health-related policies implementation. With Taiwan accreditation simplify policy in 2016, the accreditation system of the medical center should be reviewed to meet the trends. In view of the missions of the medical center, the accreditations should focus on the principle of patient-centered, towards the quality of the patient's care. JCT will focus on the overall cooperation of the medical team, rethink and plan the strategies in the training quality, and continuous to collect suggestions for improving the accreditation mechanism.