



# The impact of hospice combined-care on the utilization of hospice services in Taiwan

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## Background

Since the hospice care utilization rate in Taiwan was low, the hospice combined-care (HCC) project was implemented in Jan 2005.

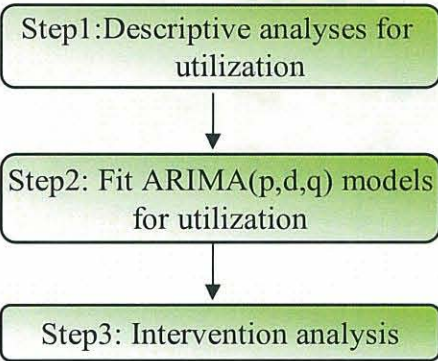
## Objective

Apply time series analyses to explore the impact of HCC on the utilization of hospice services (including hospice wards and hospice home care).

## Materials

Cancer patients who used hospice services between Jan 2003 and Dec 2007.

## Methods



### ARIMA models for utilization

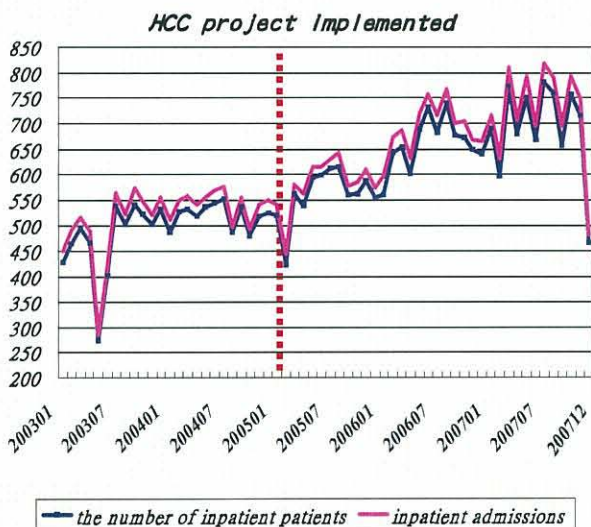
Variables	ARIMA(p,d,q)
The number of inpatient patients	(1,0,0)
Inpatient admissions	(2,0,0)
Inpatient days	(1,0,1)
Average length of stay	(2,1,0)
The number of home care patients	(0,2,2)
Home care visits	(0,2,1)

### Intervention analysis for utilization

Variables	Estimate	SE	T value	P value
The number of inpatient patients	3.44799	0.51972	6.63	<0.0001
Inpatient admissions	3.54184	0.59444	5.96	<0.0001
Inpatient days	47.67014	9.70368	4.91	<0.0001
Average length of stay	0.0003642	0.0050585	0.07	0.9429
The number of home care patients	-0.14473	0.08381	-1.73	0.0899
Home care visits	0.89108	0.54875	0.01	0.9906

## Results

Trend of utilization of hospice ward between Jan 2003 and Dec 2007



## Conclusion

The impact of HCC project in Taiwan:

- ◆ The utilization of hospice wards increased.
  - ◆ ALOS in hospice wards did not increase.
    - Related to the reimbursement scheme of the National Health Insurance (NHI).
  - ◆ Referrals to hospice home care did not increase.
    - Related to shortage of manpower, severity of cancer patients, preferences and insufficient NHI payment.
- More efforts are needed in promoting hospice home care.







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## ■ Background

- The hospice care utilization rate in Taiwan was still low.
- Taiwan implemented the hospice combined-care (HCC) project since Jan 2005.

## ■ Objective

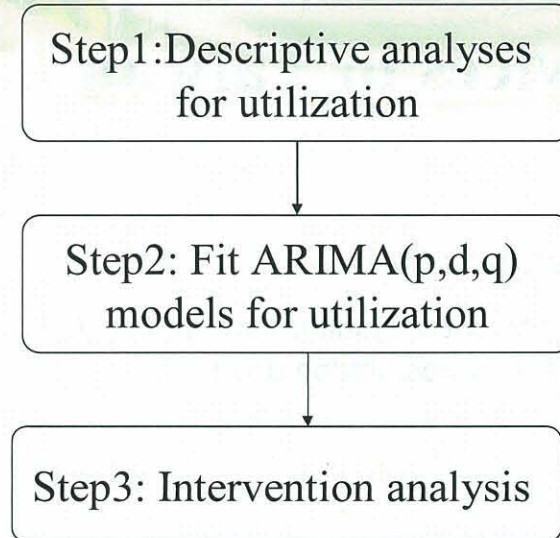
- To explore the impact of HCC project on the utilization of hospice services.



## ■ Materials

- Cancer patients who used hospice services between Jan 2003 and Dec 2007.

## ■ Methods



## ■ Results

- the impact of the HCC project in Taiwan:

- The utilization of hospice wards increased.
- ALOS in hospice wards did not increase.
- Referrals to hospice home care did not increase.

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## ■ Conclusions

- The HCC project is effective in increasing hospice ward utilization.
- More efforts are needed in promoting hospice home care.

