

# Nursing Care of International Tourist in Hiroshima: An Emerging Concern

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## ABSTRACT

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<b>Introduction</b>	The government of Japan has a goal of increasing the number of foreign tourists each year. Approximately ten million foreign tourists visit Japan in 2008 as the result of a highly successful foreign traveler promotion campaign. Although the numbers of visitors have grown sharply, only few researches have examined the problems encountered by nurses who have taken care of foreign patients. When providing high-quality clinical health care to them, local nurses need to deal with communication and cultural differences. Our research investigates how the attitudes of nurses who do not possess an international background, change when taking care of foreigners.
<b>Methods</b>	A 15-item questionnaire was distributed along with blank paper to the nurses to express their feelings at three hospitals in Hiroshima, Japan. The data was collected in January until September 2010 from 114 nurses at three hospitals whose hospital policies include 24 hours acceptance for all patients including foreigners. The clinical locations are very close to the Atom Bomb Museum and ground zero in Hiroshima, areas which are popular tourist sites for visitors.
<b>Results</b>	The majority of the nurses expressed concern about foreign language communication skills, the payment system, cultural and religions differences. They were also worried about the smaller size of Japanese medical facilities. After the nurses took care of the patients, they felt they did not provide quality of care for the foreigners due to lack of communication.
<b>Conclusions</b>	These results suggest that in order to provide a high quality of patients care, a lot of preparation and greater knowledge of international workers and visitors to Japan are required by nursing professionals at Japanese medical facilities.