


Chapter 2

Global Disease Burdens, Risks, and Their Implications for Home Healthcare: Chronic Burdens in Home Health Systems

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ABSTRACT

The global rise in the aging population, chronic diseases, and barriers to healthcare access has significantly increased the need for home healthcare services. The global burden of disease threatens both individual health and the sustainability of health systems. Home healthcare offers quality, person-centred care in the patient's environment while reducing institutional care pressures. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, its importance has become more evident, highlighting the need for technological, political, and workforce-oriented reforms. These services address chronic disease management, elderly care, palliative support, and rehabilitation, making them essential for long-term care. According to WHO's 2019 report, non-communicable diseases account for 71% of global deaths, underscoring the need

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for sustainable, home-based alternatives to hospital care. This chapter explores global disease burdens, policy and technology impacts, workforce needs, and the evolving role of home healthcare globally.

INTRODUCTION

Today, the aging population worldwide, the increase in chronic diseases and difficulties in accessing healthcare services are increasing the need for home healthcare services. The global burden of disease threatens not only the health of individuals but also the sustainability of health systems. In this context, home healthcare services not only ensure that patients receive quality care in their own environment, but also reduce the pressure on healthcare systems. Especially with the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance and potential of home healthcare services have become more visible, and it has come to the fore as an area that needs to be reconsidered with its technological, political and manpower dimensions (WHO, 2020).

Home health services offer a person-centred, holistic and sustainable care model. These services cover a wide range of services such as management of chronic diseases, daily life support of elderly individuals, palliative care and post-operative rehabilitation. The increasing elderly population and long-term care needs have made this model indispensable in health systems. In addition, the planning of home health services by taking into account their social, economic and emotional dimensions is of great importance for social welfare.

According to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) 2019 Global Burden of Disease Report, non-communicable diseases (cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, etc.) are responsible for 71% of deaths worldwide. Since most of these diseases require long-term care and regular health monitoring, they have brought the search for sustainable solutions in the home environment instead of hospital-based healthcare services (WHO, 2019).

In this book chapter, the effects of global disease burdens on home health services, opportunities offered by technological developments, the guiding role of health policies, human resources and training requirements, and different practices at global level will be discussed in detail. In addition, the challenges faced by these systems and their potential for future development will be discussed, and the place of home health services in global health systems will be analysed.

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