

# **(Investigations and discussions of issues required to establish a support system for older adults with mental disorders)**

## **Primary Researcher:**

(Tsubasa Omi)

(Associate Professor), (Health Service Center Department of Regional Co-creation, Research Center for Social Transformation)

The biggest challenge for psychiatry in Japan, the "reduction of psychiatric beds and transition of long-term hospitalized patients to the community," has not yet been addressed. One reason is the rapid increase in the number of difficult hospital discharge cases involving elderly people with mental disorders due to dementia along with physical complications that accompany the aging of the population. As a result, many psychiatric care beds are occupied by older patients with psychiatric disorders who mainly require nursing care. Nowadays, the original psychiatric care is at risk. This study investigated the current situation of older patients with psychiatric disorders who have been hospitalized for a long period in Saitama Prefecture, as well as summarizes the observed problems in the support system for older patients with psychiatric disorders in Japan. Furthermore, various issues for expanding psychiatric outreach that are necessary to promote the community transition of older patients with psychiatric disorders are discussed from the perspectives of psychiatric hospitals' entry into psychiatric outreach projects, the introduction of incentives to encourage community transition, and the form of psychiatric outreach that addresses physical complications.