A Study on the Intention Outsourcing for Medical Laboratories Operating

許宏彰、王學銘

E-mail: 9707191@mail.dyu.edu.tw

ABSTRACT

The increasing pressure of hospital management, due to the changing medical en-vironment and the instability of health insurance policy, had resulted in the implementa-tion of business outsourcing strategy by many medical institutes, to pursuit better per-formance management and the ultimate higher profit. Therefore, the outsourcing of medical laboratories has gradually increased and become a trend in response to the changing environment and impact toward hospial. The domestic research regarding the outsourcing of medical businesses mainly fo-cuses on the studies of non-medical and medical affairs, however, little of such studies examine the outsourcing of medical departments. Therefore, it is intriguing to investi-gate the situation of currently rising outsourcing of medical laboratories. The present study aims at examining and understanding the key factors which would affect the strategic decision of medical laboratories outsourcing by investigating the current condition and underlying rationale of implementing medical laboratory out-sourcing, for providing references to hospitals in the strategic decision of medical la-boratory outsourcing. The study inquired the strategic makers of regional hospitals in central Taiwan area for the key elements of medical laboratory outsourcing. The obtained raw data were analyzed by descriptive and deducible statistical methods, including t-test, x2 test, ANOVA and Logistic Regression. Our results demonstrated that the ratio and intention of medical laboratory out-sourcing is reciprocally proportional to the scale of hospitals. A significant difference was observed between the considering factors and the levels of hospitals. Among the business categories in hospitals which had implementing the outsourcing policy, the in-strumental investment, reagent purchase and the cost of human resources are the scopes of outsourcing business with higher intension due to the changing environmental policy and level of impact. Our results also demonstrated that, currently, no hospital had implemented the medical laboratory outsourcing policy. The underlying consideration includes, first of all, the high-tech apparatus required for practice expansion, instrumental renewal and technical requirement; secondly, the strengthened needs of organization learning such as efficiency promotion and personnel training; and thirdly, the stimulation of financial needs. All of the above factors would enhance the hospitals 'intension of implementing outsourcing policy. In summary, after adjusting various influencing factors, the present study con-cluded that the major elements for a hospital to evaluate the implementation of out-sourcing policy are strong needs for technological apparatus and the successful expe-riences from medical laboratory of other hospitals as well as that from other departments in home hospital.

Keywords: medical laboratories outsouing; intention; core

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