

Free Provision of Entertainment Robot “aibo” to Medical Facilities

~ Stress Relief for Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients ~

Sony Corporation (“Sony,” below), and M3 Inc. (“M3,” below) has announced to provide 100 “aibo” entertainment robots to medical facilities free of charge^{*1} to provide stress relieve and therapeutic support for patients hospitalized due to COVID-19, supported by the “Sony Global Relief Fund for COVID-19.”

Applications from medical institutions will be accepted from February 8, 2021.

<https://m3comlp.m3.com/lp/ssap/aibo>



With increasing severity of impact from COVID-19, patients hospitalized in medical facilities are faced with aggravation of their mental health, due to circumstance such as visitation restriction against family and friends, and suspension of hospital schooling and playrooms for children. Conversely, solutions such as therapy animals do not suffice from a sanitary perspective. Sony aims to offer a solution through the provision of aibo to medical facilities facing challenges in alleviating stress and improving the mental health of hospitalized patients.

This initiative was realized in collaboration with the “Sony Global Relief Fund for COVID-19” and the project “CaNoW^{*2},” whose concept is to enable patients to find the passion to live by bringing dreams to reality. By leveraging the fund and in close alignment between Sony and M3, this initiative scopes the processes of application registrations from medical sites, provision of aibo, and follow-up.

Periodic surveys at facilities that have adopted aibo will be conducted to support improvements in efficacy of future initiatives that provide psychosocial contribution in relieving anxiety and stress from

isolation of hospitalized patients at medical facilities.


■ Initiatives in the United States

Furthermore, isolation and anxiety among the patients at health care facilities with visitation restriction for families and friends is also a social problem in the United States. Sony is also planning to implement support programs such as provision of aibo to these facilities, leveraging the “Sony Global Relief Fund for COVID-19.”

Sony and M3 will continue to collaborate to create value through initiatives that contribute to solving problems across the healthcare industry by utilizing advanced technologies.

*¹ This free provision is subject to certain conditions.

*² The project “CaNoW” was launched by M3 in September 2019, to grant the wishes of patients through corporate sponsorship and to enable them to find the passion to live by bringing dreams to reality.

* aibo and  are trademarks of Sony Corporation.

* Sony and M3 are proceeding “COMPASS project” to promote open innovation through idea recruitment from physicians and joint research initiatives with medical professional.