

## Chapter 2

# Comprehensive and Well-planned Promotion of Cancer Control

## Section 1. Promotion of Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy

Cancer has been the leading cause of death since 1981 in Japan with currently more than 300,000 people dying from it every year. It is estimated that the number of people who will develop cancer in their life time is 1 out of every 2 men and 1 out of every 3 women. Furthermore, the number of deaths from cancer is expected to increase as the aging of society progresses.

Therefore, in accordance with the “Cancer Control Act” that was introduced by members of the Diet and approved in June 2006, the “Basic Plan to Promote Cancer Control Programs” (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Plan”) was approved in June 2007, with efforts against cancer being made in a comprehensive and systematic manner.

Of cancer treatments available in Japan, the use of radiotherapy and chemotherapy is inadequate. Hence the “promotion of radiotherapy and chemotherapy” is being positioned as a priority issue and the goal of establishing a system wherein radiotherapy and outpatient chemotherapy is available at all designated cancer hospitals by FY 2011 has been set.

In accordance with above, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare revised the “Guidelines for Establishing Designated Cancer Hospitals” (hereinafter referred to as the “Guideline”) and enforced it on April 1, 2008.

With regard to radiotherapy, the Guideline requests that a system be established wherein radiotherapy will be made available at designated cancer hospitals through ensuring that ① doctors, nurses, and radiology technicians with specialized radiotherapy knowledge and skills are in place, and ② the appropriate medical devices for radiotherapy have been installed.

And regarding chemotherapy, the Guideline also requests that a system be established wherein better quality chemotherapy will be made available through ensuring that ① doctors, nurses, and pharmacist with specialized chemotherapy knowledge and skills are in place, and ② care units for chemotherapy have been installed.

In addition, efforts to improve the quality of radiotherapy and chemotherapy are being made to provide training for doctors and other medical staffs who are engaged in the practice of radiotherapy and chemotherapy and medical devices for radiotherapy are rapidly being put in place.