

Section 2. Palliative Care from the Early Phase of Treatment

Many cancer patients suffer physical pain and psychological distress while their families also suffer various pains from when they are first diagnosed cancer. Hence “palliative care from the early phase of treatment” is being positioned as a priority issue and the goal set of ensuring that all doctors engaged in cancer treatment have acquired basic knowledge on palliative care through training by FY 2016.

Therefore, in addition to shortening the target period to FY 2011, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has been providing ① training for doctors who are involved in palliative care mainly at designated cancer hospitals so that they can offer guidance on palliative care training in respective regions, and ② training for doctors in respective regions who are engaged in the practice of cancer treatment.

In addition, the Guideline requests a system in which the appropriate palliative care that ① palliative care teams consisting of doctors and nurses with specialized knowledge and skills in palliative care be established, and ② palliative care for outpatients can be made available.

Further efforts are being made to promote public awareness of palliative care, and the appropriate use of medical narcotics needed in palliative medical care through holding workshops for medical professionals.