(3) Health Promotion Measures and Measures against Diseases

Health Centers and others

Overview

Activities of Health Centers

Health centers are front-line comprehensive public health administrative institutions to offer both personal and objective health services. Personal health services include broad-based services, those requiring specialized technologies, and services requiring team work of various health care professionals. In addition, health centers provide required technical support for health services of municipalities.

Health centers are established in 389 locations in 47 prefectures, 105 locations in 64 designated cities, and 23 locations in 23 special wards under the Community Health Law. (As of April 1, 2008)

<<Personal health service areas>>

<Measures against infectious diseases>

Health checkups, reporting emergence of patients, etc.
Non-regular health checkups of Tuberculosis, preventive vaccination, home-visit guidance, controlled medical examination, etc.
(the Infectious Disease Law)

<Measures against AIDS/intractable diseases>

AIDS individual counselling programs (including free anonymous examination), AIDS consultation
(AIDS guidelines)
Medical consultation of intractable diseases, etc.
(outlines of infectious disease measures)

<Measures for mental health>

Identifying current situation regarding mental health, mental health and welfare consultation, home-visit guidance of mental health, office works regarding medical care and protection, etc.
(the Mental Health and Welfare Law)

<Measures for maternal and child health>

Home-visit guidance for preterm infants, providing medical aid for premature infants, etc.
(the Maternal and Child Health Law)

<<Objective health service areas>>

Health centre administration council
Directors of health centers (doctors)

<Food sanitation>

Providing business license for restaurants, supervising business facilities, guidance, etc.
(the Food Sanitation Law)

<Environmental health>

Providing business license, notification, on-site investigation, etc.
(the Law Concerning Coordination and Improved of the Environmental Health Industry, the Entertainment Places Law, the Public Bath Houses Law, the Inns and Hotels Law, the Barbers Law, the Cosmetologists Law, the Laundries Law)

- Health risk management
- Technical support/advice for municipalities
- Adjustment between municipalities
- Formulation/promotion of regional health/medical care plans

517 health centers
389 in prefectures
105 in designated cities
23 in special wards

Doctors
Physical therapists
Dentists
Occupational therapists
Pharmacists
Public health nurses
Veterinarians
Midwives
Clinical radiologic technologists
Nurses
Medical social workers
Certified psychiatric social workers
Laboratory-medical technologists
Medical technologists
Food sanitation inspectors
Environmental sanitation inspectors
Registered dieticians
Dieticians
Dental hygienists
Abattoir inspectors etc.

<Medical care inspection>

On-site investigation of hospitals, clinics, non-profit medical corporations, dental clinics, clinical laboratories, etc.
(the Medical Care Law, the Dental Technicians Law, the Law concerning the Exceptional Cases of the Medical Practitioners)

<<Planning, adjustment, etc.>>

Publicity
Dissemination and enlightenment
Health statistics
Health consultation

* In addition to these activities, health centers provide license for opening pharmacies (the Pharmaceutical Affairs Law), take custody of dogs to prevent the spread of rabies (the Rabies Protection Law), and accept applications for opening massage clinics, etc. (the Law for Practitioners of Massage, Finger Pressure, Acupuncture and Moxacauterization, etc.).