Measures for Medical Services in Remote Areas

Overview

Structural Chart of the 10th Measures for Health and Medical Services in Remote Areas (since FY 2006)

The 10th plan: “New measures for securing doctors and medical institutions to provide medical services in remote areas and islands”

- “Let’s All Think”
  - Discussion on a sustainable system that is satisfactory to community residents through formulation of medical plans.
  - Sharing knowledge through “Remote Areas and Islands Manual”
  - Announcements through information system for supporting medical services in remote areas (dissemination and enlightenment)

- “Let’s All Support”
  - Enhance supporting/adjusting functions of clinics through enhancement of prefectoral office to support medical services in remote areas
  - Secure institutions that can offer consultation through information and communication technologies
  - Adjust deployment and roles of doctors and institutions through new framework

Prefectures

- Formulate medical plans
  - Formulation of more effective plans with the revision of medical plans
  - Article 30-4 of the Medical Care Law
  - Medical plans shall provide for the following matters.
  - The following programs required for securing medical care.
    - Establish, guide, and evaluate prefectoral office to support medical services in remote areas
    - Designate/evaluate core hospitals

Core hospitals for medical services in remote areas

- Mobile clinics
- Training programs
- Dispatch doctors (dispatch locum tenentes, etc.)
- Accept and support patients

Related medical organizations [medical associations, etc.]

Medical institutions in neighborhood

- Promotional programs for medical services in remote areas
- Councils on securing hospital doctors in remote areas
- Implementation plan and adjustment of medical support
- Deployment of multiple full-time staffs to provide treatment

Regions requiring measures for health and medical services in remote areas (population of areas within a radius of 4km)

1. Efforts in plans for health and medical services in remote areas

As does the 9th plan, the new 10th plan for health and medical services in remote areas stared in FY 2006 provides that "prefectural office to support medical services in remote areas" are established in each prefecture to continue promoting broad-based measures for health and medical services in remote areas.

Current Status of Measures for Health and Medical Services in Remote Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of investigation (once every 5 years)</th>
<th>Regions with no doctors</th>
<th>Subject population (10,000 people)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>2,920</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>2,088</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>1,276</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>16.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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* Regions with no doctors
Regions with no medical institutions in which population of 50 or more people live within a radius of approximately 4km from the major location of the region and it takes more than one hour one way to go to medical institutions using ordinary means of transportation.

2. Status of Establishment

(1) Prefectural office to support medical services in remote areas (subject to assistance of operational expenses)

- Scheduled to be established/operated in 39 prefectures by the end of FY 2006

(2) Core hospitals for medical services in remote areas (subject to assistance of operational expenses, facility establishment expenses, and equipment installment expenses)

- 253 hospitals are designated as of March 31, 2007.

(3) Clinics for medical services in remote areas (subject to assistance of operational expenses, facility establishment expenses, and equipment installment expenses)

- 1,070 clinics (including National Health Insurance direct managed clinics) are established as of March 31, 2007.

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