Overview

Overview of Measures against Intractable Diseases

Various programs have been implemented based on the "Outline of the Measures against Intractable Diseases" compiled in 1972.

<Definitions of intractable diseases to be addressed>

(1) A disease whose cause has not yet been detected and for which there is no established therapy, and which may likely leave an aftereffect

Example: Behcet's disease, myasthenia gravis, aplastic anemia, and malignant rheumatoid arthritis

(2) A disease which is chronic and poses not only financial problems, but a heavy burden on the patients' family due to the great deal of effort required in caring for the patients, including potential psychological burdens

Example: Pediatric cancer, pediatric chronic nephritis, pediatric asthma, progressive muscular dystrophy and renal insufficiency (of dialysis patients)

Methods of implementation	Types of programs	
(1) Promotion of survey/research	Health and labour sciences research	
	(Research for overcoming intractable diseases)	(Health Service Bureau)
	(Research on regenerative medicine, etc.)	(Health Policy Bureau)
	(Research for prevention and treatment of immune/allergic diseases)	((Health Service Bureau)
	(comprehensive research on health and welfare for people with disabilities)	(Dept. of Health and Welfare for Persons with Disabilities)
	(Comprehensive research on children and family)	(Equal Employment, Children and Families Bureau)
	Research on psychiatric and neurological diseases	(Health Policy Bureau)
(2) Establishment of medical institutions	Expenses of National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry	(Health Policy Bureau)
	Facilities of core hospitals and cooperative hospitals for severely intractable disease patients	(Health Service Bureau)
	Improvement of medical devices for National Hospital Organization	(National Hospital Organization)
	Establishment of facilities for children (or adults) with severe mental/physical disabilities	(same as above)
	Establishment of facilities for children (or adults) with progressive muscular atrophy	(same as above)
(3) Reduction of co-payment of medical fees	Research on the treatment of specific diseases	(Health Service Bureau)
	Research on the treatment of specific pediatric chronic diseases	(Equal Employment, Children and Families Bureau)
	Medical aid for children with potential disability	(Dept. of Health and Welfare for Persons with Disabilities)
	Rehabilitative medical care	(same as above)
	Placement measure for children (or adults) with severe mental/physical disabilities	(same as above)
	Placement measure for children (or adults) with	(same as above)
(4) Improvement and cooperation in community-based health care, medical care	Promotion programs of special measures against intractable diseases	(Health Service Bureau)
	Intractable disease consultation/support center programs	(same as above)
	Training programs for medical professionals engaged in specific disease medical care	(same as above)
	Intractable disease information center programs	(same as above)
(5) Promotion of welfare measures aimed at improving quality of life (QOL)	Housing assistance programs for intractable disease patients	(Health Service Bureau)