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

(1) Promotion of survey/research

(2) Establishment of medical institutions

(3) Reduction of co-payment of medical fees

(4) Improvement and cooperation in community-based health care, medical care, and

(5) Promotion of welfare measures aimed at improving quality of life (QOL)

Types of programs

Health and labour sciences research
(Research for overcoming intractable diseases)
(Research on regenerative medicine, etc.)
(Research for prevention and treatment of immune/allergic diseases)
(comprehensive research on health and welfare for people with disabilities)
(Comprehensive research on children and family)
Research on psychiatric and neurological diseases

Expenses of National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry
Facilities of care hospitals and cooperative hospitals for severely intractable disease patients
Improvement of medical devices for National Hospital Organization
Establishment of facilities for children (or adults) with severe mental/physical disabilities
Establishment of facilities for children (or adults) with progressive muscular atrophy

Research on the treatment of specific diseases
Research on the treatment of specific pediatric chronic diseases
Medical aid for children with potential disability
Rehabilitative medical care
Placement measure for children (or adults) with severe mental/physical disabilities
Placement measure for children (or adults) with

Promotion programs of special measures against intractable diseases
Intractable disease consultation/support center programs
Training programs for medical professionals engaged in specific disease medical care
Intractable disease information center programs

Housing assistance programs for intractable disease patients