

## 8. Support for Women's Health

### Support for Women's Maternity Health

- **Provision of comprehensive maternal and child health services from pregnancy to delivery**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare further promotes measures to provide medical services, including medical check-ups, health counseling and guidance services, medical assistance, from pregnancy to delivery, for daily life.

The Ministry also systematically implements "Healthy Parents and Children 21" – a national campaign for maternal and child health – to improve maternal and child health services.

- **Infertility counseling services**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare promoted a plan to set up a prefectural counseling center specializing in infertility, under the Child and Child Rearing Support Plan, to provide multidimensional information / counseling services to infertile couples, so they could make their own decisions based on accurate and appropriate information as to how they should address the issue. The Ministry also promotes research and studies on fertility treatments. The Government Subsidized Project is also being implemented to subsidize part of the expenses for fertility treatment for infertile couples, which can be expensive.

- **Increased perinatal care**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare promotes the Perinatal Medical Network Project to set up in prefectures a general perinatal maternal and child medical center which should be the core of the perinatal medical services, as well as to ensure coordination between local and high-level medical facilities, to properly provide advanced treatment to pregnant women and newborns who may require emergency treatment. Also, Pregnancy and Medicine Information Center set up in 2005 in the National Center for Child Health and Development collects domestic and international information about the safety of drug therapy on pregnant women.

- **Disseminate information about voluntary contraception by women**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare implements measures to disseminate information about the physical and psychological effects of abortion on women and about safe abortions, to prevent ill-considered abortions. The Ministry also supports efforts to disseminate information about contraception to allow women to voluntarily use contraceptives.

It also facilitates counseling/information services through public authorities for adolescent men and women about sex, contraception and abortion.

### Measures Against HIV/AIDS

- **Implementation of comprehensive measures against HIV/AIDS from prevention to treatment**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare systematically implements comprehensive measures against HIV/AIDS to prevent HIV infection and provide medical treatment appropriate patients with diseases, while giving consideration to the human rights of AIDS patients and HIV infected persons as well as social backgrounds, under the "National Guidelines for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care" (Guidelines for HIV prevention - No. 89 announcement by the Ministry of Health, Labour in 2006) and Welfare which was established by the Law Concerning the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients with Infections (the Infectious Diseases Control Law – Law No.114 of 1998), and conducts annual assessment on the implementation of the measures.

- **Promotion of education at school about HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology continues its efforts to expand HIV education in school education in activities, such as the production and distribution of health information materials to lower- and upper - secondary school students that provide thorough explanations about sexually transmitted diseases, production/distribution of reference materials for teachers, and organizing training and education seminars for teachers.

## The Major Services on Maternal and Child Health

Classification	Adolescence	Marriage	Pregnancy	Childbirth	1 year old	2 year old	3 year old
Physical examination			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maternal physical examination (ultrasonography for women 35 years of age and over)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Infant physical examination</li> <li>● Examination of newborns for hearing impairment (*1)</li> <li>● Examination for congenital metabolic abnormalities</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Physical examination for 18-month-old infants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Physical examination for 3-year-old infants</li> </ul>
Health guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adolescent health care counseling program</li> <li>- Adolescent clinics</li> <li>- Genetic counseling</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Home-visit guidance by public health nurses, etc.</li> <li>● Notification of pregnancy and issuance of the Maternal and Child Health Handbook</li> <li>● Distribution of maternity marks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Protection against mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ day-care service for infant health support (*2)</li> </ul>		
Medical support			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maternal and child health counseling and guidance projects (premarital class) (newly-wed class)</li> <li>○ Child care and health support projects (*2)</li> <li>- Maternal and child health community activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Holiday medical checkup / child care counseling for families with working parents</li> <li>- Guidance on infant care</li> <li>- Maternal and child nutrition management</li> <li>- Prenatal child health care guidance (prenatal visit)</li> <li>- Postnatal health care</li> <li>- Municipal child abuse prevention network</li> <li>- Activities to prevent abuse and bullying</li> <li>- Increased assistance for child care as part of the infant physical examination</li> </ul>			
Medical measures			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dietary education (*2)</li> <li>○ Provide women with lifelong health care support (*1) (general health care counseling, counseling for couples experiencing infertility)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Medical care for premature babies</li> <li>○ Subsidization of medical expenses for specific infertility treatments (*1)</li> <li>● Support for women with toxemia of pregnancy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research to establish treatment for specific chronic infantile diseases</li> <li>○ Distribution of livingware for infants who have specified chronic infantile diseases</li> <li>○ Medical benefits for children with tuberculosis</li> <li>○ Financial support for care and guidance (*1)</li> </ul>		
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Child/home general research (Health and labour science research expenses)</li> </ul>
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establishment of maternal and child medical care facilities (development of pediatric and perinatal medical facilities)</li> <li>○ Comprehensive perinatal maternal and child medical center (*1)</li> <li>○ Perinatal medical network system (general expenses) (establishment of steering committees and systems, etc.) (*1)</li> <li>○ Special programs to promote and improve maternal and child health (*1)</li> <li>○ Programs to establish pediatric and obstetrical medical facilities (*1)</li> <li>○ Promotion program of the development of a base hospital organization for child mental health (*1)</li> </ul>

○ State-aid projects ● Projects covered by general finances

\*1: Comprehensive support measures for maternal and child health care services

\*2: projects covered by the subsidy for Support for Raising the Next Generation in Japan