

## 11. Support for Women's Health throughout Their Lifetimes

### ■ 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 and health counseling and guidance services, 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 in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – to improve maternal and child health services.

- **Infertility counseling services**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare promoted a plan to set up counseling centers 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.

- **Increasing perinatal care**

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is setting up comprehensive perinatal maternal medical centers that will serve as the core of perinatal medical services, and regional perinatal maternal medical centers to support those core centers, so that high-risk pregnant women and newborns are properly provided with advanced treatment. It is also working to ensure collaborative systems with regional childbirth facilities. 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.

- **Disseminating 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.

### ■ 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. 21 announcement by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in 2012) which was established by the Act on Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients Suffering Infectious Diseases (Act No.114 of 1998), and conducts annual assessment on the implementation of the measures.

- **Promotion of measures against problems that jeopardize health**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology continues to work to improve AIDS education in schools through activities such as creating and distributing to junior and senior high school students educational health awareness materials that comprehensively explain problems such as sexually transmitted diseases.

## ■ The Major Services on Maternal and Child Health

(as of April 2010)

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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Infant physical examination</li> <li>● Examination of newborns for hearing impairment</li> <li>● Examination for congenital metabolic abnormalities and cretinism</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>● Protection against mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B</li> </ul>				
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Notification of pregnancy and issuance of the Maternal and Child Health Handbook</li> <li>● Distribution of maternity marks</li> <li>● Home-visit guidance by public health nurses, etc.</li> <li>○ Project to visit all homes with infants (Hello Baby Project) (※2)</li> </ul>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maternal and child health counseling and guidance projects (premarital class) (newly-wed class)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Parenting class)</li> <li>(Child care class)</li> </ul>				
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maternal care center management services (※1)</li> </ul>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Projects to 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>○ Project to strengthen prevention of children's accidents (※2)</li> </ul>				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Projects related to maternal and child health using the subsidy for Support for Raising the Next Generation in Japan (※2)</li> </ul>						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Project to promote food/dietary education (※2)</li> </ul>						
Medical support			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Project for 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>○ Medical care for premature babies</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Project for research on 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>○ Project for guidance on medical treatment (※1)</li> </ul>	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Project for basic research on raising the next generation, including overcoming developmental disorders (Health and Labour Science Research Grants)</li> </ul>				
Medical measures			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Project to support healthy pregnancy (※1)</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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