

Local Governments' Policies and Measures

Prefectural HIV/AIDS Specialized Hospital System in Shizuoka

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Abstract

The Shizuoka Prefectural Government has selected 20 HIV/AIDS specialized Hospitals and 10 HIV clinical hospitals. The HIV/AIDS clinical cooperation hospital is a unique system found only in Shizuoka prefecture. Since the AIDS Prevention Guideline has changed, the Shizuoka prefectural government aims to establish a new AIDS treatment system and to promote an improved medical framework and better services.

Keywords: the AIDS Prevention Guideline, medical framework for AIDS, regional block HIV specialized hospital*, prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospital*, HIV/AIDS specialized hospital*, HIV/AIDS clinical cooperation hospitals, regional characteristics, AIDS-related complications

(*see Fig.3 on Page 7 in Kozo AKINO's "Various Policies for HIV/AIDS Control after the Revision of AIDS Prevention Guideline")

Introduction

The AIDS Prevention Guideline stipulates that each prefecture should select one "prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospital" as a base in order to intensively and systematically promote the establishment of a comprehensive HIV/AIDS treatment service system.

Shizuoka prefecture carefully studied issues related to the HIV/AIDS treatment system and the cooperation among medical institutions taking into account the regional needs and HIV incidence trends, and has selected four "prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals" and three additional "HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals" since the fiscal year 2006. Shizuoka prefecture has also selected "HIV/AIDS clinical cooperation hospitals" as part of its unique system for coping with an increasing number of patients suffering from AIDS-related complications. Shizuoka prefecture hopes that the association of these hospitals can provide a comprehensive HIV/AIDS treatment system.

This report describes the efforts of Shizuoka prefecture to review its present HIV/AIDS treatment system and establish a comprehensive HIV/AIDS treatment service system.

1. AIDS Treatment System Review

Based on the discussions and studies conducted by the central government on the national HIV/AIDS treatment system, Shizuoka prefecture has, since the fiscal year 2005, reviewed its own HIV/AIDS treatment system. The Shizuoka prefectural government believed that it was important to identify problems with the HIV/AIDS treatment system in the prefecture, and conducted surveys on the medical services provided at "HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals" and invited feedback from medical practitioners, the Shizuoka Medical Association, and the directors of public health centers, etc.


The major points of the review are as follows: (1) decline in the number of deaths caused by AIDS due to the advances in medical technology → AIDS has become a chronic disease; (2) adopting the latest medical technology; and (3) fewer AIDS-related cases in general → some medical institutions have very little experience in treating patients, and doctors specialized in specific diseases are in short supply. The following are the conclusions of the prefectural government reached as a result of the deliberations and discussions: (1) Given the geographical shape of the prefecture (stretching from east to west with differing regional characteristics) and given the current status of medical cooperation, Shizuoka prefecture should designate a prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospital in each of its three areas. (2) Further, in order to reinforce the HIV/AIDS treatment system, the following steps need to be taken: (a) the term "HIV/AIDS clinical cooperation hospital," which is a unique designation provided by Shizuoka prefecture, should be abolished; (b) the level of medical skills at medical institutions should be improved; (c) tasks should be divided among medical institutions and cooperation among medical institutions should be increased; and (d) prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospital should provide support and information to medical

institutions in their respective regions. See Table 1 for a summary of the discussions and Table 2 for a summary of the HIV/AIDS treatment system review.

Table 1: Summary of the Discussions on the HIV/AIDS Treatment System

Date	Description
Feb. 2006	Meeting of HIV/AIDS specialized doctors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion with doctors in prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals on the future of the HIV/AIDS treatment system in Shizuoka
May 2006	Surveys of medical services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surveys of the medical records (number of patients, births, and surgical operations) at 30 HIV/AIDS specialized hospital and HIV/AIDS clinical cooperation hospitals

Table 2: Summary of HIV/AIDS Treatment System Review

Before review	Review points	Post-review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals 10 HIV/AIDS clinical cooperation hospitals (uniquely selected by Shizuoka prefecture) <p>* Hospitals that can provide the appropriate treatment, advice, etc. to AIDS patients by cooperating with HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals</p>	<p>[The problems faced by the HIV/AIDS treatment system]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Decline in the number of deaths caused by AIDS due to advances in medical technology → AIDS has become a chronic disease Adopting the latest medical technology Few AIDS-related cases in general → Some medical institutions have very little experience in treating patients, and doctors specialized in specific diseases are in short supply  <p>[Reinforcement of the AIDS treatment system]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abolition of the designation "AIDS clinical hospital" Selection of HIV/AIDS clinical cooperation hospitals Improving the level of medical skills at medical institutions Division of tasks and cooperation among medical institutions Providing support and information to regional medical institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals (new) To be selected from among the existing HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing advanced HIV/AIDS treatment Providing medical support to and deciding the treatment policy of HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals Installing the necessary facilities and equipment Providing training and information to central hospitals and regional medical practitioners Sponsoring regional liaison meetings HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross-departmental comprehensive HIV/AIDS treatment Providing hospitalized treatment to patients Counseling for patients Providing support and information to regional medical institutions and attending regional liaison meetings HIV/AIDS clinical cooperation hospitals (uniquely selected by Shizuoka prefecture) Cooperation among specialized medical institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing treatment and medical support to patients suffering from AIDS-related complications including cancer, TB, mental illnesses, etc. Cooperating with prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals

2. Selecting Medical Institutions that will be a Part of the New System

(1) Process of Selecting Medical Institutions

The following preparations were undertaken to select prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals, HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals, and HIV/AIDS clinical cooperation hospitals:

(1) Preparations for selecting prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals

Opinions on the (draft) selection by Shizuoka prefecture (based on its regional characteristics and medical records) were collected from the doctors of HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals, directors of public health centers, doctors of the Nagoya Medical Center (regional block HIV/AIDS specialized hospital), etc., as part of the preparations. During the final stages, direct interviews were held with the directors of proposed hospitals in order to confirm their willingness.

(2) Determining the willingness of HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals and HIV/AIDS clinical cooperation

hospitals

The willingness on the part of HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals to continue providing treatment with few medical records was confirmed. The willingness of HIV/AIDS clinical hospitals to upgrade their status to HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals was also confirmed as the unique system of the prefecture is to be abolished because its initial goals have accomplished.

(3) Explanations for and coordination among the people concerned

Doctors who are members of the Shizuoka AIDS prevention and control promotion committee, the Shizuoka Medical Association, etc., were briefed about the selection of the prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals.

(4) Requests to HIV/AIDS clinical cooperation hospitals

Hospitals specialized in cancer, TB, mental illnesses, etc., were requested and agreed to cooperate in treating AIDS patients suffering from complications with these diseases.

(2) Criteria for Selecting Prefectural HIV/AIDS Specialized Hospitals and Hospitals that were Selected

In addition to the functions of prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals stipulated in the AIDS Prevention Guideline, the criteria for selecting new prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals included the following: (1) hospitals with sufficient medical records, (2) hospitals with medical teams consisting of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, medical social workers (MSW), etc., (3) cooperation with regional medical institutions (the ratio of referral and reverse referral), and (4) hospitals that are highly trusted by AIDS patients and HIV-positives.

Based on the above criteria, the following four prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals were selected:

- (1) Numazu City Hospital (Numazu City: prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospital situated in the eastern area of the prefecture)
- (2) Shizuoka City Hospital (Shizuoka City: prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospital situated in the central area of the prefecture)
- (3) Hamamatsu Medical Center (Hamamatsu City: prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospital situated in the western region of the prefecture)
- (4) Shizuoka Children's Hospital (Shizuoka City: prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospital for children and hemophilia patients in the entire prefecture)

3. Acceptance of the Reasons for the Selection of HIV/AIDS Specialized Hospitals by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

After the abovementioned discussions, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare accepted the following reasons for the selection of prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals in January 2007:

[Reasons for the selection]

The AIDS Prevention Guideline developed by the central government stipulate that each prefecture should, in principle, select one prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospital. However, since the prefecture extends from east to west and has a population of 3.8 million, Shizuoka has been divided into three areas—the eastern area centered around Numazu City, the central area centered around Shizuoka City (an ordinance-designated city), and the western region centered around Hamamatsu City (an ordinance-designated city since April 2007)—with the population and area of the prefecture being almost evenly distributed among them. The policies of the prefecture also emphasize balance among the three areas. The medical policy, too, is based on strong cooperation among clinics and hospitals located in each of the areas.

HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals are also based on the same principle of regional balance. There are five hospitals in the eastern area, eight in the central area, and seven in the western area. The number of hospitals designated in Shizuoka well exceeds the national average. An additional hospital is expected to be added in each of the three areas (a total of three hospitals).

The medical cooperation, regional characteristics as well as the functions of the prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospital were taken into consideration while selecting these hospitals. As a result, for the efficient operation of the system, one prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospital was selected from each of the three regions by taking the medical records into consideration. This is because selecting only one prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospital in the prefecture would create too

many prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals. One prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospital (a Shizuoka prefectural hospital) for children and hemophilia patients was also selected in the prefecture.

4. Conclusion

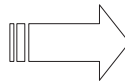
As mentioned earlier, the AIDS control policy in Shizuoka prefecture has received extensive cooperation from medical institutions including prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals, members of the Shizuoka AIDS prevention and control promotion committee, the regional block HIV/AIDS specialized hospital, and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all the people concerned for their efforts and cooperation in forming the network of the medical cooperation system.

The medical cooperation system needs to be operated more efficiently through the increased efforts of the people concerned. I hope to develop a more organized network led by the Shizuoka AIDS treatment committee and regional AIDS treatment liaison committee. Moreover, I hope to increase the level of medical skills through training programs.

[Reference] HIV/AIDS treatment system in Shizuoka

[Current] Released on May 20, 1996

	HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals (20)
Eastern	5
Central	8
Western	7



[After review] From April 1, 2007

HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals (23)
Prefectural HIV/AIDS specialized hospitals (4 out of 23)
<u>Numazu City Hospital</u> Juntendo University Shizuoka Hospital National Hospital Organization Shizuoka Medical Center Fujinomiya City Hospital Fuji City Central Hospital Ito City Hospital
<u>Shizuoka City Hospital</u> <u>Shizuoka Children's Hospital</u> Shizuoka General Hospital Shizuoka City Shimizu Hospital Shizuoka Saiseikai General Hospital Yaizu City General Hospital Fujieda City General Hospital Shimada City Hospital Shizuoka Red Cross Hospital
<u>Hamamatsu Medical Center</u> Iwata City General Hospital Hamamatsu University School of Medicine, University Hospital Seirei Hamamatsu General Hospital Seirei Mikatahara General Hospital Hamamatsu Red Cross Hospital Kosai General Hospital JA Shizuoka Kohseiren Enshu Hospital

	HIV/AIDS clinical cooperation hospitals (10)
Eastern	1
Central	3
Western	6

Unique selection of hospitals by Shizuoka prefecture
HIV/AIDS clinical cooperation hospitals (3)
[Cancer] Shizuoka Cancer Center [Mental illnesses] Shizuoka Psychiatric Medical Center [TB] National Hospital Organization Tenryu Hospital

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