

The proper enforcement of the epidemiologic study

The epidemiologic study investigates frequency and the distribution of the phenomenon about the health including affection of illnesses, and the scientific research to clarify the factors associated with it. To investigate the origin of the illnesses and the epidemiologic study serves to be great for medical development and the health maintenance and a relation with the health not to be able to lack, and in recent years, become important to explain and obtain concurrence from people subjected to research, in addition to improvements of the consciousness about the right of privacy and in the trend of public opinion of the protection of personal information which demands standards to be clarified.

For these reasons, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in cooperation with Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is setting up a "ethic indicator about the epidemiologic study" (in 2002 the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology / the second Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare notification) in June 2002. In the principle, the research enforcement decided that they should receive an informed consent from people subject to research, taking the examination of an ethic screening committee set up by the research organization and the personal information structure protection system is determined, so that demand for an observance for those involved in epidemiologic studies, make an effort to proper research operation.

In addition, to enforce the "Act on protection of the personal information", in December 2004, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare cooperate with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology made an amendment of incorporate the measure for protection of prescribed personal information in the law by the personal information protection (in 2004 the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology / the second Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare notification) .

Moreover, in August 2007, research organization leader's duty, the personal information structure protection system is determined (in 2007 the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology / the first Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare notification) .