

Press Release



Ministry of Health and Welfare,
Republic of Korea

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Healthcare 4.0 Era for Healthy Korea

The 3rd Master Plan for Fosterage of Health and Medical Service Technology (2023~2027)
4 Major Strategies and 14 Implementation Tasks

- ☞ Improve the level of Korea's healthcare and medical service technology compared to the countries with the most advanced technology (79.4% in 2022 → 82.0% in 2027)
- ☞ Build a system to respond to a health security crisis with vaccines and medicine within 100 days
- ☞ Expand bio-health exports (USD 24.2 billion in 2022 → USD 44.7 billion in 2027)
- For people's life and health, ▲ Invest in essential medical services, including heart and brain disease treatments, and emergency care ▲ Develop technology to respond to medical conditions without total cures including cancer and dementia, and ▲ Develop patient-tailored treatment technology for rare and incurable diseases
- Establish healthcare security that ▲ Secures the competencies to develop vaccines and cures for infectious diseases with the provision of fast and accurate diagnosis, ▲ Strengthens the pan-government cooperation system to cope with infectious diseases and disasters, and ▲ Creates an innovative framework for healthcare and medical R&D
- Ascend to a bio-health powerhouse by ▲ Introducing data & AI-based digital healthcare innovation, ▲ Enhancing global competitiveness of pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and ▲ Improving patient access to advanced regenerative medicine
- Create an innovative R&D ecosystem by ▲ Increasing R&D competitiveness to meet the medical demand, ▲ Facilitating commercialization of technology developed by corporations, and ▲ Rationalizing regulations and training professionals

<Summary>

The government plans to improve Korea's healthcare and medical technology from a 79.4% level of most advanced countries in 2022 to 82.0% in 2027 and build a system to respond to a healthcare crisis with vaccines and medicine within 100 days. Also, the government plans to expand bio-health exports from USD 24.2 billion in 2022 to USD 44.7 billion in 2027.

On April 19, the Ministry of Health and Welfare (Minister Cho, KyooHong) announced **"The 3rd Master Plan for Healthcare and Medical Technology Development" (2023~2027)**, reviewed and approved at the 3rd deliberation meeting of the Presidential Advisory Council on Science and Technology.

The plan*, established **every five years** under Article 4 of the **Health and Medical Service Technology Promotion Act**, is a comprehensive government-wide plan to present the direction of the health and medical service technology policy to improve the quality of life and resolve economic and social problems.

* 11 government agencies concerned: Ministry of Health and Welfare; Ministry of Science and ICT; Ministry of the Interior and Safety; Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy; Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries; Ministry of SMEs and Startups; Ministry of Food and Drug Safety; Rural Development Administration; and Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency

The 3rd Master Plan for Healthcare and Medical Technology Development is **a mid to long-term plan** established in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, **focusing on health and medical service technology**. To develop the plan, the government **has formed a public-private joint, long-term strategy and planning council** of about 50 experts from academic, industry, and research fields. The council held four **general meetings** and four **subcommittee meetings** from June to November 2022.

The Ministry of Health and Welfare conducted **a nationwide survey** in August 2022 and **a public hearing** in November 2022 **to collect public opinions and expectations on health and medical service technology**. The 3rd Master Plan for Healthcare and Medical Technology Development was finalized after the **Policy Deliberative Committee for Health and Medical Service Technology** meeting in December 2022 and the deliberation and resolution of the Presidential Advisory Council on Science and Technology.

Under the vision of “Pioneering the ‘Healthcare 4.0’ Era for a Healthy Korea”, the plan consists of **4 major strategies, 14 core tasks and 46 implementation tasks** designed to achieve the goals of **improving health and medical service technology, creating a system to respond to a healthcare crisis within 100 days and expanding bio-health exports.**

Firstly, the government will **increase investments in developing technology to promote people’s health and protect their lives.** In particular, government support will prioritize the **prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cardio-cerebrovascular diseases, emergency and severe patients, and the development of technology to increase fertility and lower mortality rates of infants.** **Technology for the diagnosis and treatment** of critical conditions, including **cancer and dementia,** will also be developed to **improve the quality of life for both patients and their families.** The plan will find ways to reduce medical costs through comparative research on cost-efficient medical technology, narrow the healthcare gap, and **uphold healthcare equality by enhancing welfare technology** to assist older people and people with disabilities with **self-sufficiency, rehabilitation, and quality care access.**

Secondly, the government will invest in research and development to **establish health security** by developing **vaccines and medicines** and building an **infectious disease response system.** It will also work on establishing an R&D system to create a society safe from infectious diseases, including **securing technological capability to produce vaccines and essential pharmaceuticals domestically and R&D capabilities to diagnose and develop vaccines and medicines for infectious diseases.** Government agencies will **collaborate closely** to advance the country’s **infectious disease response and research system** and build an **innovative R&D system** to solve complex social problems.

Thirdly, the government will expand investments in technology development **for Korea to ascend to a bio-health powerhouse.** **Digital healthcare technology, including data and AI,** will be actively used to promote innovation in medical services. The government will strive to **secure the core technology** necessary to develop **new medicines** and enhance Korea’s global competitiveness by **digitalizing** the entire production process. Policies and regulations will be revised to **improve access to advanced regenerative medicine** and support the **development and commercialization of core technology required to produce medical devices.**

Fourthly, the government will create an R&D ecosystem designed to **promote innovation.** **Translational and clinical research** will be expanded further to respond to unfulfilled medical service demand, and the government will provide consulting and referral support to **facilitate the commercialization of R&D results.** In addition, the government will **amend regulations to encourage private sector-led innovation** and provide assistance with **securing licenses and permits.** It will also continue **investing in developing professional personnel,** including field experts in the industry,

academia, research and medical services, and physician-scientists who can compete for leadership in the bio-health sector.

Minister Cho KyooHong said, **“The COVID-19 pandemic has shed new light on the importance of healthcare and medical service technology as an industry and its role in protecting people from emerging health risks.** The government will concentrate its policy-making efforts and resources on **accelerating healthcare and medical R&D to generate diverse and creative ideas that protect people’s safety and health while establishing a solid foundation on which the bio-health industry can advance”.**