

## **Current Policy Status and Task of ICT Wellness Care**

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### **(Abstract):**

Due to the sudden increase of demand for national medical welfare, in accordance with increased adult diseases caused by changes in dietary life and lack of exercise, rapid aging of population, and switch from death diseases to care diseases, the government's financial burden for healthcare and medical service is growing as years go by. In response to this, ICT-based wellness care is drawing attention as an effective alternative. Especially, as the paradigm of medical service is changing from disease cure to preventive care, the importance of alleviating the national burden for medical expenses as well as healthcare based on prevention and monitoring for the extension of citizens' health life is growing even larger. Recently, thanks to the popularization of smartphone, increase of data communication speed, release of various wearable devices, and development of big data analysis technology, customized medical services for a variety of diseases have been provided at low cost. The existing healthcare and medical service industry is transforming to the wellness care industry through ICT convergence. In addition, major countries in the world and global companies are quickly advancing into the wellness care market. In Korea, it is difficult for telemedicine and medical information exchange to be promoted, due to barriers such as legal regulations and lack of social consensus; however, it is expected that the wellness care has huge potential to be used in ICT convergence since there is little influence of such barriers in this field. In regards to this, the government is pushing ahead with ICT convergence project of wellness care, or is expected to do so, with a goal to create service demand, build service ecology, and improve laws and regulations in phases through verification. The examples of project are: 'Development of Open-type ICT Healing Platform Technology based on Individual Health Information,' in which an individual can receive various healthcare services based on his or her personal health record; 'Demand-connected Daily Healthcare' by developing and applying a service that manages the health of general people, adolescents, elders, etc. based on a wearable-device; 'Development and Demonstration of After-Care Technology for People with Severe Diseases,' which is a demonstration of After-Care service based on smart technology in order to support recovery after surgery and prevent recurrence for people with severe diseases, and 'Leading Application of Public ICT Wellness Care,' which prevents diseases in advance by connecting to health checkup result (Health Index) and providing ICT-based wellness care service for latent patients. Since healthcare and medical service based on ICT convergence is a high value-added industry and is very effective for creating jobs, it has greater economic ripple effect than that of the existing key industries in Korea. However, not only the government's effort but the cooperation of the government and medical industry is also very important, in order for the new healthcare and medical industry based on ICT convergence to act as the nation's new growth engine. Wellness care based on ICT can finally be vitalized when there is a cooperation between the government and medical industry, and it is expected to ultimately enhance the healthy life of citizens and reduce the financial burden for national medical insurance.

***[Keywords] Wellness Care, ICT Convergence, Medical Service***