

Overview of the Countermeasures against Specific Pediatric Chronic Diseases

At the Information Center for Specific Pediatric Chronic Diseases, we are here to support children with chronic diseases as well as their families and other loved ones. We also provide information for people involved in the treatment of such patients and for those involved in health and education.

Support for children with chronic diseases and their families

In regards to countermeasures against pediatric chronic diseases, we support children with chronic diseases and their families in the ways listed below.

I. Creating fair and stable ways to provide medical fee assistance (making the provision of medical expense assistance an obligation)

1. Patients that meet the following conditions are eligible for medical expense assistance (Reference: four requirements)

- (1) suffers from a disease that is chronic,
- (2) the disease poses a long-term threat to the patient's life,
- (3) the conditions and treatment of the disease have a long-term effect in lowering the patient's quality of life, and
- (4) the disease requires long-term and continuing high-cost treatment.

To ensure fairness and transparency, a council constantly reviews the standards for naming and deciding the conditions of the selection of targeted diseases.

2. Application and authorization for medical expense assistance

A designated physician (such as a person who has been certified as a medical specialist by the relevant academic or scientific community) issues a certificate testifying to their medical opinion (which will be used in the process of applying for medical expense assistance authorization).

The examination process has been reinforced (if necessary, an audience can be granted with the authorization committee, and the medical specialist can advocate for

the patient with the authorization committee).

3. Approach to payment levels (*The patient bears a reasonable level of the costs according only to their ability to do so; this is equal to the payment levels in other systems with medical expenses supported by public expenditures.)

II. Promoting research and improving the quality of treatment

1. Designated medical facilities

These facilities guarantee convenience for pediatric patients and their families, as well as the continuation of treatment (designated requirements are established so that the medical facilities that currently provide treatment continue to be designated).

2. Medical collaboration

Regional cooperation, a higher quality of medical care (core hospitals and their juvenile disease departments send information to regional medical facilities)

Cooperation with relevant regional organizations (cooperation with health care centers as well as welfare and education organizations leads to a more fulfilling life for patients undergoing treatment)

Cooperating and sharing information with intractable disease and adult medical facilities

3. Promoting research

Greater precision of data input (designated physician directly inputs data, data accumulates over years, data on patients with intractable diseases is linked, also possible to input data on patients not receiving medical expense assistance for reasons such as a cure).

Using registered data for research and sharing the results of this research with pediatric patients and the general public

III. Understanding the characteristics of children with chronic diseases and encouraging them to grow up healthily, take part in society, and be self-reliant through the unified support of the community

1. Encouraging the spread of information and awareness

Creating a portal site that allows for access to a broad range of relevant information

2. Encouraging comprehensive support in regional areas, etc.

Creating committees made up of people involved in the region's local medical, health, welfare, and education fields to examine the content of the support* tailored to the needs of pediatric patients and their families, as well as using regional resources (such as various support policies and NPOs) to provide care

(*Support includes: consultation, peer support, support for creating individual support plans to encourage self-reliance, support in taking part in society, self-reliance support, and family support.)

Maintenance of pediatric patients' handbooks for specific pediatric chronic diseases; bringing the handbook system to a new level

Formulating and devising national public policies for specific pediatric chronic diseases and encouraging treatment research in addition to guaranteeing medical, welfare, and other facilities, as well as promoting understanding among those involved

3. Support for the transition into adulthood

Providing seamless support into adulthood while being involved in strengthening comprehensive support (see point 2 of number 3) in order to encourage self-reliance among pediatric patients, in addition to general support relating to self-reliance and medical expense assistance*

(*Due to an increase in the number intractable disease patients, it is expected that there will be a rise in the number of people who continue to receive medical expense assistance.)

[Click here for the New Medical Expense Assistance System for Specific Pediatric](#)

Chronic Diseases

Designated training resources for specific pediatric chronic diseases

The resources (“Overview of the Countermeasures against Specific Pediatric Chronic Diseases” and “Outlook of Diseases Targeted by the Countermeasures against Specific Pediatric Chronic Diseases”) created for the training of designated physicians for specific pediatric chronic diseases are available for viewing.

Designated medical training materials