

## Medical Expense Support for Specific Pediatric Chronic Diseases

Childhood cancer, which is a type of pediatric chronic disease, requires a long period of treatment and results in high medical expenses. The Pediatric Chronic Disease Treatment Research Project seeks to support the healthy development of children, as well as the establishment and promotion of disease treatments. It also seeks to cover costs usually borne by patients in order to help alleviate the burden of medical expenses on patients' families.

### Medical Expense Support for Specific Pediatric Chronic Diseases

The following information pertains to medical expense support for specific pediatric chronic diseases.

#### Overview

To support the healthy development of children and to alleviate the burden posed by medical costs on patients' families, a portion of the costs for children with specific pediatric chronic diseases is covered by aid.

#### Eligibility

Child patients are eligible if they have a specific pediatric chronic disease that meets the conditions listed below and it is of a severity designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.

1. Disease is chronic,
  2. disease is a long-term threat to the patient's life,
  3. the conditions and treatment of the disease have long-term effects in lowering the patient's quality of life, and
  4. the disease requires long-term and continuing high-cost treatment.
- Must fulfil all of the above requirements and must be a disease designated by the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.
  - Only children who are 18 years old or younger are eligible. (However, if upon reaching the age of 18 the patient is eligible for the project and also requires continued treatment, they will be eligible until they are 20 years old.)