

Social security system for medical expenses

1. Health care insurance by the Japanese government or by your company

- 70% of the medical costs are covered by a health care insurance (except for the medical treatment at the patient's expense, hospital meal, extra room charge and some medical reports). Patients are responsible to pay 30% of their medical costs.
- If monthly medical expenses exceeds the predefined ceiling, the part of expenses which covered by a health care insurance paid to the hospital will be partially reimbursed by the health care insurance system called "Kougaku-Ryouyouhi :高額療養費". The ceiling is calculated based on the gross income earned in the previous year. For details, ask the social worker at your hospital or the administrative desk of your health care insurance system.

2. Handbook for the Physically Disabled (Shintai syougaisya techou :身体障害者手帳)

According to the state of your immune level, HIV patients are certified a Level 1-4 "Immune Dysfunction due to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (免疫機能障害)." Once you are issued a Handbook for the Physically Disabled, you are qualified for various welfare services, including the "medical expenses subsidy system for the mentally and physically disabled" or the "independence support treatment benefit" according to the level of your disability.

If you live in Tokyo, you need to submit the following three items to the disability welfare section at a municipal office to apply for the Handbook for the Physically Disabled.

- 1) Application form
- 2) Medical examination report by a doctor
- 3) Photo (3cm*4cm)

3. Medical expenses subsidy system for the mentally and physically disabled

(Shinshin syougaisya iryouhi jyosei :心身障害者医療費助成)

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government subsidizes the medical expenses for the certified disabled persons according to the level of the disability. Level 1-3 of the "Immune Dysfunction due to Human Immunodeficiency Virus" are subjects for this subsidy program. Patients are responsible to cover 10% of the medical expenses. Note that there is an income limitation. For details, ask the disability welfare section at your municipal office.

4. Independence support treatment benefit – Treating the HIV

(Jiritsushien kousei iryou :自立支援更生医療)

If you have a “Handbook for the Physically Disabled”, you can receive subsidies for the self-paid portion of the expenses. Note that the treatment without the medication for “Immune Dysfunction due to Human Immunodeficiency Virus” is not subject to this system. Annual application is required.

By using this system, the self-paid portion become 10%, however, there is a ceiling for the self-paid amount according to the income earned in the previous year (0/2,500/5,000/10,000 or 20,000 yen per month).

To apply it, the following documents must be submitted. Ask to disability welfare section at your municipal office.

- 1) Application form
- 2) Medical report by a doctor
- 3) A copy of the “Handbook for the Physically Disabled”
- 4) A copy of the Health care insurance
- 5) A proof of income

*When you apply it, you have to choose the hospital (National Center for Global Health and Medicine) where you receive the medical treatment and pharmacy where you take HIV drugs. It means if you change the hospital or pharmacy, you need to reapply it at disability welfare section at your municipal office.