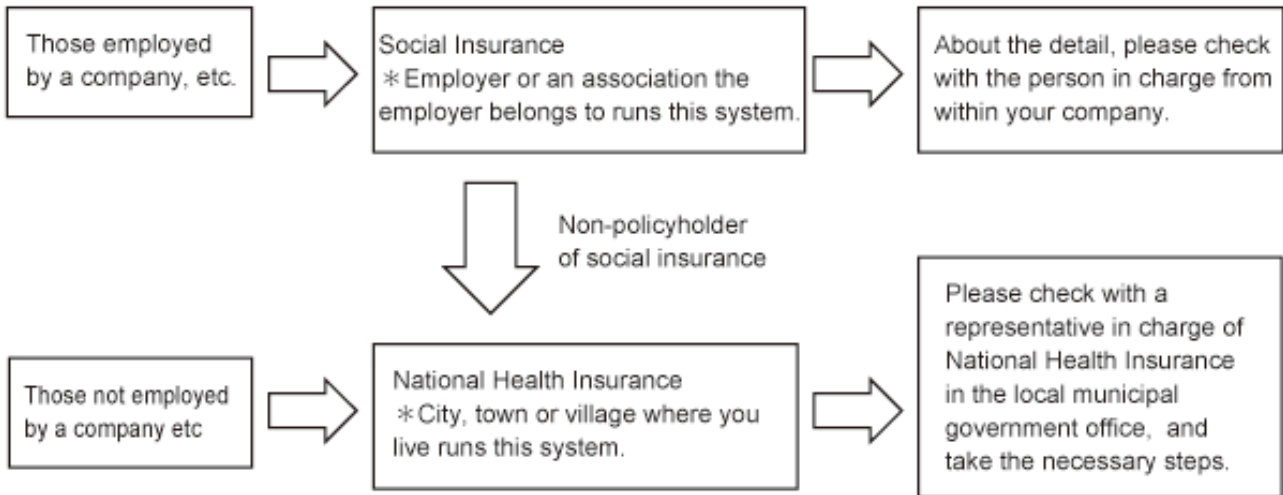


II-2 Medical Insurance (National Health Insurance, Nursing Care Insurance and others)

1. Medical Insurances in Japan

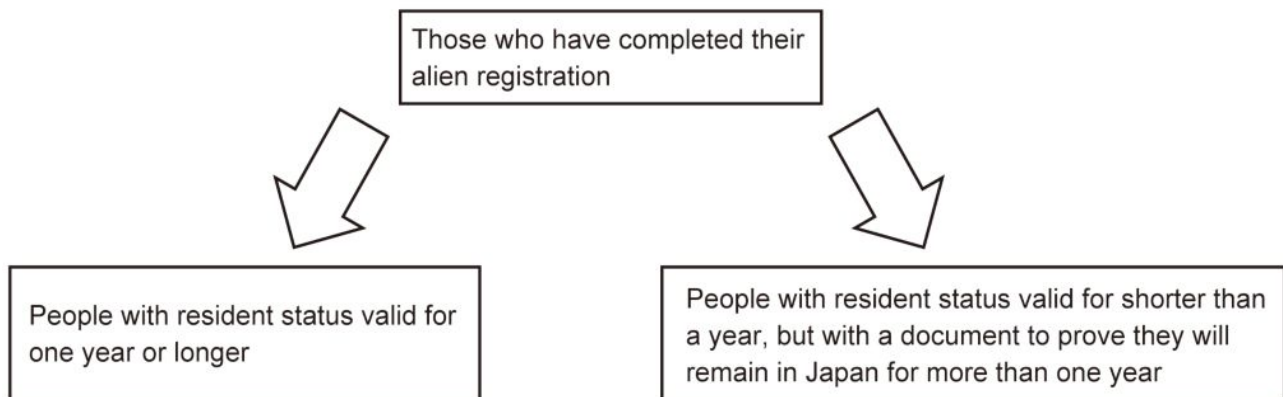
In Japan, the following two types of medical insurance are the main ones. The law requires you to be a policyholder of either one. In Japan, medical fees are relatively high, but you will pay less after applying for the insurance. When you initially apply for alien registration, if you believe you would meet the requirements to apply for National Health Insurance, please declare this and ask them to direct you to the division in charge of National Health Insurance applications.



People of 75 or over are required to apply for “Medical Insurance for elderly people with longevity”. (For details please refer to 3. (below) Medical Service System for the Elderly People with Longevity)

2. National Health Insurance

People covered by National Health Insurance *



*If you are from a country with a reciprocal Social Security Agreement with Japan including medical insurance, and if you show the proof of being covered by the social security service in your country, you will be exemplified from National Health Insurance in Japan.

(1) Application Procedure

- Requirements:
Those who have completed their alien registration and are regarded as foreigners who will remain in Japan for a year or longer
- Times to apply:

When you move into Japan or change address inside Japan

- Necessary documents:
Alien registration card (if your resident status is valid shorter than one year, you will need to bring proof that you will stay in Japan for a year or longer.)

(2) Benefits for the Insured (the service a policyholder can receive)

For details such as the amount of benefits and procedures, please contact the responsible division of your municipality. (Appendix page 62 Ⅹ—1)

- Self-Pay Portion of Medical Fee

Those with National Health Insurance must pay 30% [for children before the age of beginning compulsory education: 20% . for the people aged 70-74: 10% (however, for the people in that age category earning money more than a certain amount: 30%)] of all health care received . Please note that some miscellaneous costs accompanying hospital admission may not be covered by insurance.

- High-Cost Medical Care Benefits

If a person's self-pay portion for a month exceeds a specified amount, the excess amount will be reimbursed afterwards.

- Lump-Sum Allowance for Childbirth

When an insured woman gives birth, the declared household owner for her family will receive allowance to cover the partial costs incurred in childbirth.

- Funeral Expenses

When an insured person dies, a portion of the funeral costs will be paid to the person who holds the deceased person's funeral.

- Specified Illness

The National Health Insurance program also offers financial assistance towards health care costs for specified illnesses.



(3) Insurance Premiums (Tax)

Insurance premiums differ depending on the structure of your family, income for the previous fiscal year and by municipality. For such details inquire at the regional municipality from which your insurance is issued. (Appendix page 62 Ⅹ—1)

Premiums will be charged at certain different times of the year (number differs by municipality). After you receive a payment slip for your premium sent by mail, please pay at the responsible division at the public office in your regional municipality, your nearest financial institution (bank) or a convenience store. Arrangements can be made to have the insurance premium automatically taken out of your bank account or savings account at the post office. Inquire at the responsible division of your local municipality for further details.

Also, if, in your household, all policyholders of the National Health Insurance are aged 65 or over, the household owner receives a pension of 15,000 yen or more per month and the amount of premium for Nursing care and National Health Insurance is still less than half of the amount received as pension, the premium will be deducted from the household owner's pension.

In the event that you are temporarily unable to pay premiums due to unemployment or disaster-incurred loss or injury, reduction/exemption of payments (means you need to pay less or none of the premium) may be available. Inquire at the responsible division of your municipality office for details.

If you are injured by a third person in a traffic accident or other incidents, normally the said third person is obliged to pay your treatment costs. However, if you report, it will be covered by the National Health insurance. Subsequent to treatment, the insurer (municipality) might claim reparations for injury from the person who caused the accident. Therefore, it is recommended that you consult with someone within the responsible division before a settlement has been reached. (Appendix page 62 Ⅹ—1)

3. Medical Service System for Elderly People with Longevity

In Japan, people aged 75 years old have their medical insurance terminated and automatically switched to the Medical Service System for the Elderly People with Longevity. Foreign national residents aged 75 or over are eligible to apply for the system if they are approved to stay in Japan for a year or longer.

(1) Application Procedure

- No procedure is required. In the month prior to reaching age 75, an association (Kouiki Rengou) sends you your insurance card.
- Those aged 65 to 74 are also eligible to be covered by the system if approved as suffering from specified disorders after submission of application. Please submit an application to the responsible division of the municipality in charge of the medical service for elderly people (those over 74 years of age).

(2) Benefits for Insured (the services policyholders receive)

- Self Pay Portion of Medical Fee
Those with the Medical Service for Elderly People with Longevity must pay 10% (however, for the people with income greater than a certain amount: 30%) of all health care received. Please note that some miscellaneous costs accompanying hospital admission might not be covered by insurance.
- High-Cost Medical Care Benefit
If a person's self-pay portion for a month exceeds a specified amount, the excess amount will be reimbursed afterwards.
- Funeral Expenses
When an insured person dies, a portion of funeral costs will be paid.
- Specified Illness
The Medical Service for Elderly People with Longevity also offers financial assistance towards health care costs for specified illnesses (such as reduction of payments.)

Please claim funeral expenses and financial assistance towards health care at the responsible division of the municipality in charge of the medical service for elderly people (those over age 74).

(3) Premium

Each prefecture calculates premiums independently. Your premium differs based upon the structure of your family and income for the previous fiscal year. If you receive a pension of 15,000 yen or more per month and the amount of the premium with Nursing Care Insurance is still less than half of the amount received as pension, the premium will be deducted from pension. Otherwise, an invoice for payment is sent to you by post, to be paid at the responsible division of the municipality or your nearest financial institution. In the event you are temporarily unable to pay premiums due to unemployment or disaster-incurred loss or injury, reduction/exemption of payments may be available.

Inquire at the responsible division of your municipality for details. (Appendix page 62 Ⅹ—1)

4. Nursing Care Insurance (Kaigo Hoken)

In Japan, when a person needs nursing care due to his/her becoming bedridden and/or suffering from dementia and other conditions, you can avail yourself of necessary services offered through the Nursing Care Insurance run by your municipality.

(1) People who are covered

Residents in Japan from the age of 65 years (Insured Category No.1), and those between 40 to 64 years of age who are covered by public medical insurance (Insured Category No.2) can be insured by the Nursing Care Insurance (policyholder). Foreign residents are also covered by Nursing Care Insurance, unless they belong to one of the following categories:

1. Residents with short-term visas.
2. Residential status of less than one year. (Those who are approved to stay in Japan for 1 year or longer are eligible.)
3. Those who have official visas (such as diplomats, consulate staff, members of the U.S. military, etc.)
4. Those whose visa has expired.

(2) People Who Can Use the Service

- Those who are 65 years old or over (Insured Category No.1) who:
 - Need constant nursing care due to being bedridden and/or suffering from dementia. Such persons must attain approval by the municipal government for such service.
 - Those who do not need constant nursing care, but need support for regular, daily activities such as dressing. Such persons must be approved by the municipal government as a person who needs such care (the condition of Support Necessary).
- Those who are 40 to 64 years old, covered by medical insurance (Insured Category No. 2) and fall into the condition of Nursing Care Necessary or Support Necessary due to one of 16 designated types of illnesses caused by aging, including past middle-age dementia and cerebrovascular disease, and the person already approved by the municipal government as a person in a condition of Nursing Care Necessary or Support Necessary.

(3) Available Services

- Home Care Services (including services designated for those who do not fulfill the conditions of the Nursing Care Necessary, for the people in the condition of Support Necessary.)
 - Care worker's visit (Home Help Service); a care worker visits your home to support daily activities or provide physical nursing care
 - Nurse visits at your home: a nurse visits your home and examines/assists you
 - Visit to a nursing home (Day Service); Visit a day-service center for baths, (some) meals and rehabilitation
 - Short-term nursing care at a nursing home
 - Nursing-care for residential care in designated facilities and other care
- Service at Facilities: Examples
 - Welfare Facilities Offering Nursing Care for Elderly Citizens (Special Nursing Home): facilities for the people who need constant nursing care and are unable to live at home. To provide residence for such people, support on daily life, rehabilitation and nursing.
 - Health Facilities Offering Nursing Care for Elderly Citizens: Facilities for people in need of rehabilitation or nursing care with hope of recuperation and returning home.
 - Medical Treatment Type Nursing Care Facilities: facilities for patients needing long-term treatment: to provide medical services such as nursing or rehabilitation.
- ※ People in the "Support Necessary" category cannot use the long-term services offered at the facilities.
- Community-Based Services (including the preventive services which do not fall into Nursing Care Necessary for the people in "Support Necessary")

(4) How to Pay for the Insurance

- People aged 65 and over (Insured Category No.1):
 - For those who receive a pension ¥15,000 or more per month (including their retirement pension), insurance payments are deducted from the pension. Others pay directly to the municipal government by bank transfer, etc.
- People aged from 40 to 64 with public medical insurance (Insured Category No.2):
 - The insurance payment is added to the medical insurance payment.

(5) Payment for using these services

- When receiving services from the Nursing Care Insurance system, the patient basically pays 10% of the cost. When the patient receives care at a facility, they must pay for meals on top of the 10%.
- However, to prevent the 10% payments from becoming unbearable, there are maximum monthly limits for self-payment (such as expenses for large lump-sum payments for nursing care services) In particular, for people with lower incomes, the maximum monthly payment limit as well as meal payments are set lower.

(6) Consultation Offices at Municipal Government Offices

For further information regarding the application of nursing care insurance and available services, please consult with the responsible division at your municipal government office.
(Appendix page 62 IX—1)