Iwate Health Services Guidebook

for foreign residents

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As a rule, municipal governments and Public Health Centers will use Japanese only. If you are not proficient in Japanese, please bring someone along who can provide the necessary linguistic assistance.

(1) Childrearing and Mother-Child Health

Pregnancy

If you become pregnant, please fill out the pregnancy registration form at your local municipal government office or Public Health Center. You will receive a Maternal and Child Health Handbook (*Boshi Kenkō Techō*) and be eligible for health consultations and guidance. (It is recommended that, before registering, you consult a doctor or midwife to confirm your pregnancy and ascertain the number of weeks it has progressed.)

The Maternal and Child Health Handbook serves as a record of the pregnancy itself, birth, immunizations, and child maturation. Additionally, as it is your passport to governmental services including health checkups, please carry it with you at all times.

Local governments and hospitals regularly hold seminars and workshops providing guidance on pregnancy, birth, and postnatal issues for both parents. We urge you to participate actively.

Birth

If you choose to give birth in a hospital in Japan, expect a hospitalization of five to seven days. Please be aware that a normal birth does not qualify for health insurance coverage (see below). Thus, you will need to pay for birth-related expenses on your own. Expect to be billed over \(\frac{1}{2}\)200,000 for a typical hospital birth.

However, there is a one-time, lump-sum refund of ¥350,000 available upon application (see below). Please contact your local government office or employer for more details.

Delivery by Caesarian section, which usually requires a hospitalization of two weeks, is covered by health insurance, as are other abnormal births.

Childrearing

In an effort to assure children's healthy maturation, the following health checkups, childrearing counseling, and immunizations are being made available. Contact municipal health centers for details.

Childrearing Support

Support services and subsidies include the infant medical expenses subsidy, child allowance, childrearing allowance, special childrearing allowance, disabled child allowance, and physically disabled persons' certificate.

Service	Description		
Maternal and Child Health Handbook	(<i>Boshi Kenkō Techō</i>) Child health and growth record from birth to school entrance, including prenatal health, infant checkup results, and immunizations. Please receive this Handbook early in your pregnancy (see above.)		
Parenting Workshops	Guidance for peace of mind during pregnancy, including explanations of pregnancy stages, the birth process, bathing babies, the paternal role.		
Maternal Health Checkup	Maternal health management, including pregnancy progress monitoring, pregnancy toxemia prevention, and fetal health monitoring. Performed at obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN) clinics.		
Infant Health Checkup	available from pediatricians. (You will receive a registration card.) Immunizations help assure child health. Local governments perform vaccines for BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin), polio, measles, rubella (German measles), Japanese		
Regular Immunizations			
Mother-Child Health and Childrearing Counseling	Counseling on tonics including maternal health, child growth, and childrearing		
Infant Medical Expenses Subsidy	1 Silbeidizes intant medical evaminations		
Other Includes child allowance, childrearing allowance, special childrearing allowance, speci			

(2) Adult Health

Health Management

Foreign nationals who have completed Alien Registration may receive the same health management services as Japanese citizens.

- O Municipalities provide an array of health management services to residents, some at low cost and some free. Contact your municipal health center if you are interested. Check local government newsletters for examination times and dates.
- ★ Health management examinations are not covered by insurance, as they are not predicated on the treatment of a disorder. You will be required to pay in full for physical examinations performed at a hospital or similar medical institution.
- O Employers are required to provide regular medical examinations for their full-time and nearly full-time employees.

Service	Description		
Tuberculosis (TB) Testing	Thoracic (chest) X-rays are taken to aid early detection of TB infection.		
Health Handbook	Provided upon request to examinees or those requiring long-term care to aid in the prevention of lifestyle-related diseases (chronic diseases; <i>maladie de comportment</i>). Record examination results, etc.		
Health Counseling	Includes counseling on physical and emotional health, and lifestyle-related diseases.		
Dental Health	Includes adult dental examinations and dental health programs for persons receiving at-home nursing care, independent disabled medical support (psychiatric visits), psychiatric health and welfare certificate application procedures and disability welfare services.		
Mental Health Services	Counseling for sufferers of insomnia, constant aggravation, or related problems of emotional origin. Topics may include: procedures for acquisition of the Certificate for Health and Welfare of the Person with a Mental Disorder or for outpatient subsidies, residential living support efforts, and social reintegration facilities.		
Pulmonary (Lung) Cancer Testing Sputum (expectoration) examinations and thoracic (chest) X-rays aid early determined pulmonary (lung) cancer and related disorders.			
Gastric (Stomach) Cancer Testing	Barium-swallow X-rays (GI series) are performed to detect gastric (stomach) cancer, ulcers, and other gastrointestinal (GI) disorders.		
Uterine Cancer Testing	Examinations are performed for the early detection of gynecological disorders. Examinations may including internal gynecological exams and cytodiagnosis (microscopic cell diagnosis).		
Breast Cancer Testing	Visual inspection, palpation (tactile examination) mammography examinations (breast mass x-ray) are performed to assist early detection of breast cancer (mastocarcinoma.)		
Colon Cancer Testing	Occult blood testing of feces is performed to aid early detection of colonic cancer.		
Health Guidance	In addition to health guidance, exercise guidance, gynecological examinations, and osteoporosis examinations are available.		

^{*} Your municipality may not offer all of the above services. Check with your local government office.

(1) Health Counseling

Service	Description		
Mental Health Counseling	Counseling for sufferers of insomnia, constant aggravation, or related problems of emotional origins. Medical specialists are available.		
AIDS Counseling, HIV Testing	AIDS counseling and HIV testing is performed on an anonymous basis. However, test results cannot be mailed or given over the phone; you must come to the health center to receive them.		
Genital Chlamydia Antibody Test	Antibody test Counseling is available regarding the genital Chlamydia infection.		
Hepatitis Counseling, Testing	Counseling and Testing is available regarding hepatitis B and hepatitis C.		
Bone Marrow Donor Registration Counseling	Counseling for persons interested in becoming bone marrow donors.		
Intractable Disease Counseling	Counseling on intractable diseases is always available.		
Nutritional Counseling	Dietary counseling and guidance, including prevention of lifestyle-related diseases.		
Female Health Support Center	Centers provide consultation as needed in cases of pregnancy, birth and menopause and other female-specific physical and mental trouble.		
Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis (TB) Counseling Counseling Counseling Counseling Counseling			
Adolescent/Adolescence Counseling on both the physical and emotional aspects of adolescence and processing and emotional aspects of adolescence and processing and emotional aspects of adolescence and processing are considered as a constant of the physical and emotional aspects of adolescence and processing are considered as a constant of the physical and emotional aspects of adolescence and processing are considered as a constant of the physical and emotional aspects of adolescence and processing are considered as a constant of the physical and emotional aspects of adolescence and processing are considered as a constant of the physical and emotional aspects of adolescence and processing are considered as a constant of the physical and emotional aspects of adolescence and processing are constant of the physical and emotional aspects of adolescence and processing are constant of the physical and emotion of the phys			

^{*} Times, dates, and counseling topics vary by health center.

(2) Medical Benefits Systems

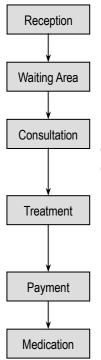
Service	Description	
Medical Aid for (Potentially) Disabled Children	Medical aid for children with a physical disability or illness recognized as causing future disability.	
Medical Aid for Specific, Chronic Children's Diseases	Assists in payment of great long-term cost incurred by pediatric cancer and chronic heart disorders.	
Medical Aid for Premature Infants	Aid to support appropriate medical treatment to prevent physical or mental disability resulting from premature babies' underdeveloped birth.	
Medical Aid for Specific, Chronic Diseases	Assists in payment of great cost incurred by specified intractable diseases whose treatment is extremely difficult.	

^{*}Application may be made at the Health Center application desk.

^{*} Above services are free as a rule.

(1) Getting Treatment

Reception is carried out on a day-by-day basis, and consultations performed in the order of reception. In other words, "first come, first served." Consultation times vary; many clinics perform consultations both in the morning and afternoon, while many hospitals only consult in the morning. As a rule, consultations are not performed on Sundays and holidays. Other restrictions may apply, so please call ahead to confirm.



Present your insurance card at the reception desk and explain your condition. It would be best to enlist someone's help if you are not confident in Japanese.

Please wait in the waiting area until a nurse calls you.

Proceed to the consultation room. The doctor will ask questions about your symptoms, their duration, and what their cause might be. In some cases, X-rays, blood test, ultrasound testing (ultrasonography; echography), urine testing, or other measures may be called for.

Immediate treatment with injections, compresses, etc. will be performed. In cases where a clear diagnosis cannot be made without seeing the appropriate test results, you may be asked to return later as well.

Copayments are made at the cashier. Here you will also receive a registration card, and your health insurance card will be returned to you.

Prescribed medication can be acquired in one of two ways, at in-house dispensaries (though not all hospitals have such facilities) and at pharmacies. In the latter case, take your prescription to a pharmacy (*chōzai yakkyoku*), where it is covered by insurance.

(2) Emergency Medical Services

<u>Dial 119</u> (Fire Department or Station) for an ambulance. Ambulances are dispatched free of charge in case of emergencies like serious, sudden illness or severe injury.

(3) Nights, Weekends, and Holidays

Emergency medical care is available from doctors on-call nights and holidays, or from designated night and holiday emergency medical centers. On-call doctors are listed in newspapers, municipal newsletters, and a list (Japanese only) is also available at the Iwate Prefectural homepage below.

■ Designated night and holiday emergency medical centers

Morioka Night Emergency Med Ctr (Internal, Pediatric) ··· 2-29 Sakanachō, Morioka TeL019-654-1080 ··· Daily 19:00-23:00 Isawa-Esashi Area Holiday Med Ctr (Internal, External) ··· 21-1 Taga, Mizusawa TeL0197-25-3935 ··· Wknd, Holiday 10:00-16:00

[Multilingual Medical Forms] provided by Kanagawa International Foundation http://www.k-i-a.or.jp/medical/index.html

[Iwate Medical Information Network] http://www.med-info.pref.iwate.ip

[Iwate International Association] http://iwate-ia.or.jp/

[AMDA International Medical Information Center] http://homepage3.nifty.com/amdack/

4 Health Insurance in Japan

There are two kinds of health insurance in Japan, social (health) insurance and national insurance. Full or nearly full-time employees and their families are eligible for social insurance, all other residents of Japan are eligible for national insurance. Anyone residing in Japan for more than one year must apply for one of these public insurances.

Insured persons pay 30% of their medical expenses; uninsured persons pay the full amount.

(1) National Health Insurance (*Kokuho*)

O Eligibility

Participation in National Health Insurance is mandatory for foreign nationals who have completed alien registration and intend to stay in Japan for one year or more, and will not participate in social insurance. The requirement begins the day of alien registration.

Enrolment is with your municipality, so if you move you must re-register at your new place of residence. You are eligible to enroll even if your time in Japan is over an established limit, even if time has passed since your alien registration. However, in such cases you will be required to pay your premium retroactively up to two years.

Should you apply you will be issued a National Health Insurance card. Please bring it with you to the hospital without fail (see below).

O Co-payments

Persons enrolled in the National Health Insurance scheme (primary insured parties) are responsible for 30% of medical expenses for themselves and their families. The remainder is paid by the municipality of residence.

If you should forget your insurance card, do not panic. Explain the situation. You will be asked to pay the entire cost up front, but will be eligible for a partial refund if you bring your card at a later date.

O Payment of Premiums

Premiums are calculated primarily on the basis of the previous year's income, and are paid to the municipality from which you receive a bill. Premiums are fixed annually regardless of the frequency with which you require medical attention.

Premiums may be decreased or waived if you are deemed unable to pay. Please inquire with your municipal government about criteria and procedures.

O Withdrawal

Conduct the prescribed procedures for your municipality. Withdrawal reasons include leaving Japan, moving to a different municipality within Japan, enrolment in social insurance (see below) or the death of an enrollee.

O Other Insurance Benefits

Refunds are available if medical costs exceed a certain figure. Do not lose your medical receipts.

A one-time, lump sum payment of \(\pm\)350,000 per child (or more in some municipalities) is available to upon the birth of a child (see above).

O Expenses Covered Neither by National nor by Social Insurance

Physical checkups, immunizations, cosmetic plastic surgery, normal births, orthodontics, and abortions or contraceptive surgery performed for non-medical reasons.

(2) Social Health Insurance (Shaho)

O Eligibility

Full or nearly full-time company employees and their families are enrolled in the Social Health Insurance scheme. Family is defined as the parents, grandparents, spouse, children, grandchildren, younger siblings, and others up to and including tertiary relatives who are dependents of the primary insured party.

O Copayments

Persons enrolled in the Social Health Insurance scheme (primary insured parties) are responsible for 30% of medical expenses for themselves and their families at the time of their consultation or treatment. The remainder is paid by your insurance(s).

O Premiums

Premiums are calculated on the basis of the previous year's remuneration (salary, etc). Premiums are fixed regardless of the number of dependents, and are withheld from salary and bonuses.

O Other Insurance Benefits

Sickness and Injury Allowance

An allowance equivalent to 60% of remuneration (as calculated on the basis of a standard day) is available for all workdays missed beginning on the fourth day of sickness or illness and continuing up to one year and six months in cases where the primary insured is prevented from working by injury or illness and salary is withheld for the same period.

Lump-Sum Birth (and Childrearing) Allowance

A ¥420,000 one-time, lump-sum grant to the primary insured or spouse thereof in case of normal birth.

Maternity Allowance

Full remuneration (as calculated on the basis of a standard day) is provided for all workdays missed beginning 42 days prior to delivery or due date (whichever comes first) and continuing up to 56 days after delivery. In the case of multiple fetation (pregnancy with multiple fetuses), the allowance commencement date is 98 days prior to delivery or due date.

	For more information	, contact one of the	following Social	Insurance Offices	
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Office	Address	Tel
Morioka	17-13 Matsuochō	019-623-6211
Hanamaki	8-8 Zaimokuchō	0198-23-3351
Ichinoseki	8-23 Godaichō	0191-23-4246
Miyako	1-7-12 Ōta	0193-62-1963
Ninohe	18-16 Kawamata, Fukuoka	0195-23-4111

5 Where to Go, Who to Contact (1) Municipal Health Centers

Organization			Address	Tel
Morioka City Public Health Center	Morioka	Morioka Public Health Center	3-29 Shinmeichō	019-603-8301
	Shizukuishi	Shizukuishi Health Center	74-19 Mandawatari	019-692-2227
	Kuzumaki	Kuzumaki Health Center	16-1-1 Kuzumaki	0195-66-2111
	Iwate (Town)	Iwate Town Health Center	9-48-1 Itsukaishi	0195-62-2111
Ken'ō Public	Hachimantai	Matsuo Health Center	9-47-1 Noda	0195-76-2111
Health Center		Ashiro Health Center	70 Kamasuda	0195-72-2111
	Takizawa	Takizawa Health Promotion Division	55 Naka-Ukai, Ukai	019-684-2111
	Shiwa	Shiwa Health Center	85-1 Higashi Ura, Hizume	019-672-4522
	Yahaba	Yahaba QOL Promotion Division	14-78 Minami Yahaba	019-611-2825
		Hanamaki Health Center	970-5 Minami Manchōme	0198-23-3121
	Hanamaki	Öhasama Health and Welfare Center	13-23-1 Ōhasama, Ohasama machi 5-13-5 Hachiman Ishidoriya	0198-48-2124 0198-45-3012
Central Public		Ishidoriya Health Center Tōwa Health Center	6-75-1 Ahyō Tōwa	0198-43-3012
Health Center			•	0198-42-4811
	Tōno	Tōno Kenkō no Sato	4-1 Yagenbuchi, Shiraiwa, Matsuzakichō	0170-02-3111
		Kitakami Health Management Center	1-1 Yoshichō	0197-64-2111
	Kitakami	Kitakami-Ezuriko Health Mgmt Center	17-201-2 Kamiezuriko	0197-64-2111
		Kitakami-Waga Health Mgmt Center	6-146 Naganuma, Waga	0197-73-5202
	Nisiwaga	Nisiwaga Health and Welfare Division	2-81-1 Ōta	0197-85-3412
		Ōshu-Mizusawa Health Center	3-2, Ōtemachi Mizusawa	0197-23-4511
		Öshu-Esashi Health Center	4-11-3 Nishiōdōri, Esashi	0197-35-2111
Ōshu Public Health	Ōshu	Ōshu-Maesawa Comprehensive Health	180-1 Azatateishi, Maesawa	0197-41-3501
Center		Mgmt Center Öshu-Koromogawa Health and Welfare Center	53-1 Furudo, Koromogawa	0197-52-3800
	Kanegasaki	Kanegasaki Health and Medical Center	98 Nishine-Yarimizu	0197-44-4560
	Kanegasaki	Ichinoseki Health Center	1-46 Jōnai	0177-44-4300
		Hanaizumi Health and Welfare Office	193 Ichinomachi Wakutu Hanaizumi	0191-21-2160
		Daitō Health and Welfare Office	55-8 Ōdōji, Shibutami, Daitou-cho	0191-82-2216
	Center	Senmaya Health and Welfare Office	174 Kitakata, Senmaya,	0191-71-1211
Ichinoseki Public		Higashiyama Health and Welfare Office	Senmaya-cho 139-1 Nishimotomachi, Nagasaka,	0191-53-3952 0191-47-4530
Health Center Daitō Branch		Murone Health and Welfare Office	Higashiyama-cho 116 Hachiman'oki, Orikabe	0191-64-3805
		Kawasaki Health and Welfare Office	Murone-cho 137 Suwamae, Usuginu,	0191-43-4022
	II::	Himinori Horald Control	Kawasaki-cho	0101 46 5571
	Hiraizumi	Hiraizumi Health Center	45-2, Shirayama, Hiraizumi	0191-46-5571
	Fujisawa	Fujisawa Health Center	54 Machiura, Fujisawa	0191-63-5304
50 5111	Ōfunato	Ōfunato Health and Nursing Center	14-1 Shimotate-Shita, Sakarichō	0192-27-1581
Ōfunato Public	D:1	Öfunato-Sanriku Health and Welfare Center Rikuzentakata Health Promotion Division	26-1 Tokorogayoi, Okirai, Sanriku	0192-44-1030
Health Center	Rikuzentakata		110 Tateno'oki, Takatachō	0192-54-2111
yy	Sumita	Sumita Health and Welfare Division	96-1 Kawamukai, Setamai	0192-46-3862
Kamaishi Public	Kamaishi	Kamaishi Health Promotion Division	3-15-26 Owatari-cho	0193-22-0179
Health Center	Ōtsuchi	Ötsuchi Welfare Division	1-1 Shinmachi	0193-42-8748
		Miyako Health Center	4-12 Mukaichō	0193-64-0111
	Miyako	Tarō Health and Center Nijsato Health Center	3-3 Tategamori 1-115-4 Moichi	0193-87-2975
Miyako Public	-	Kawai Health Center	2-165 Kawai	0193-72-3500 0193-76-2036
Health Center	Yamada	Yamada Health and Welfare Division	3-20 Hachimanchō	0193-76-2036
		Iwaizumi Health Promotion Room	59-5 Souhata, Iwaizumi	
	Iwaizumi		,	0194-22-2111
	Tanohata	Tanohata Health and Medical Center	120-3 Tanohata	0194-33-3102
	Kuji	Kuji Health Promotion Division	8-100-1 Asahichō	0194-61-3315
W D. L.	Fudai	Fudai Health Center	9-13-2 Dōya	0194-35-2111
Kuji Public Health Center	Hirono	Taneichi Health Center Öno Health Center	Taneichi 22-1-1 8-47-2 Ōno	0194-65-3950 0194-77-3576
	Noda	Noda Residential Health and Welfare Division	20-14 Noda	0194-78-2111
	Ninohe	Ninohe Health Promotion Division	47 Kawamata, Fukuoka	0195-23-3111
		Karumai Health Fureai Center	2-54-5 Karumai	0195-46-4111
Ningle - Ded 1	Karumai	Karumai Health Fureat Center	2 34 3 Raidina	
Ninohe Public	Karumai Kunohe	Kunohe Health Center	10-11-6 Ibonai	0195-42-2111
Ninohe Public Health Center				

^{*}Japanese in table noted phonetically for ease of pronunciation. Macrons indicate lengthened vowels, but are often dropped.

(2) Iwate's Public Health Centers

Name	Address Homepage URL (Japanese only)	Tel Fax	Jurisdiction
Morioka City Public Health Center	3-29 Shinmeichō http://www.city.morioka.iwate.jp/1 9hokenjo/kikaku/portal/index.html	019-603-8301 019-603-8302	Morioka
Ken'ō Public Health Center	11—1 Uchimaru, Morioka http://www.pref.iwate.jp/info.rbz?n d=968&ik=3&pnp=17&pnp=70&p np=968	019-629-6566 019-629-6579	Hachimantai,Shizukuishi, Kuzumaki, Iwate (Town), Takizawa, Shiwa, Yahaba
Central Public Health Center	1—41 Kajōmachi, Hanamaki http://www.pref.iwate.jp/info.rbz?n d=1132&ik=3&pnp=17&pnp=72& pnp=1132	0198-22-2331 0198-24-9240	Hanamaki, Kitakami, Tōno, Nishiwaga
Ōshu Public Health Center	5-5 Ōtemachi, Mizusawa, Ōshu http://www.pref.iwate.jp/info.rbz?n d=1035&ik=3&pnp=17&pnp=71& pnp=1035	0197-22-2861 0197-25-4106	Ōshu, Kanegasaki
Ichinoseki Public Health Center	7—5 Takeyamachō, Ichinoseki http://www.pref.iwate.jp/info.rbz?n d=1288&ik=3&pnp=17&pnp=75& pnp=1288	0191-26-1415 0191-26-3565	Ichinoseki, Hiraizumi, Fujisawa
Ōfunato Public Health Center	6—1 Maeda, Ikawachō, Ōfunato http://www.pref.iwate.jp/info.rbz?n d=1392&ik=3&pnp=17&pnp=77& pnp=1392	0192-27-9913 0192-27-4197	Ōfunato, Rikuzentakata, Sumita
Kamaishi Public Health Center	6-50 Shinmachi, Kamaishi http://www.pref.iwate.jp/info.rbz?n d=1444&ik=3&pnp=17&pnp=78& pnp=1444	0193-25-2702 0193-25-2294	Kamaishi Ōtsuchi
Miyako Public Health Center	1—20 Itsukamachi, Miyako http://www.pref.iwate.jp/info.rbz?n d=1472&ik=3&pnp=17&pnp=79& pnp=1472	0193-64-2218 0193-64-7014	Miyako, Iwaizumi, Tanohata
Kuji Public Health Center	1—1 Yōkamachi, Kuji http://www.pref.iwate.jp/info.rbz?n d=1566&ik=3&pnp=17&pnp=80& pnp=1566	0194-53-4987 0194-52-3919	Kuji, Fudai, Hirono, Noda
Ninohe Public Health Center	11 — 1 Niwatari, Ishikiridokoro, Ninohe http://www.pref.iwate.jp/info.rbz?n d=1659&ik=3&pnp=17&pnp=81& pnp=1659	0195-23-9206 0195-23-6432	Ninohe, Karumai, Kunohe, Ichinohe

^{*}Japanese in table noted phonetically for ease of pronunciation. Macrons indicate lengthened vowels, but are often dropped.

Hours: Mon - Fri 8:30 - 17:30