

# Designated Intractable Disease FAQs

## (Gifu Prefectural Health and Medical Division)

**Q1** What is a “Designated Intractable Disease”?

**A1**

“Designated Intractable Diseases” are rare diseases which have unclear causes and no established treatment method. They are also considered incurable and require long-term treatment. Diseases that meet these requirements have been designated by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare to ensure that patients will receive high quality and appropriate medical care.

As of November 2021, there are 338 Designated Intractable Diseases, and a comprehensive list can be found on the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare website or on the Intractable Disease Information Center website.

**Q2** How much can medical expenses be reduced by receiving a medical subsidy for a Designated Intractable Disease?

**A2**

The patient is liable for medical expenses up to a certain threshold as determined by income. Expenses in excess of this amount will be covered by public funds. However, treatment of illnesses that are not listed as Designated Intractable Diseases are not covered by the subsidy.

When seeking medical treatment for conditions with normal health insurance coverage, the patient pays 30% of the total cost. This is reduced to 20% for those who have been certified as having a Designated Intractable Disease (and have been issued a beneficiary certificate). If the maximum amount of medical expenses the patient is liable for exceeds 20% of the medical costs, the patient pays 20% of the medical costs.

For more information, please contact health centers in Gifu Prefecture (if you live in Gifu City, contact the Gifu-shi Hoken-jo, or Gifu City Health Center).

**Q3** Where can the procedures for a Designated Intractable Disease medical treatment subsidy be completed?

**A3**

You can apply at your nearest health center by submitting a completed application form and other necessary documents, including a Personal Clinical Evaluation Form completed by a doctor. For more information, please contact health centers in Gifu Prefecture (if you live in Gifu City, contact the Gifu-shi Hoken-jo, or Gifu City Health Center).