

Estimates of National Medical Care Expenditure 2008

【Digest of Summary Report】

- The 2008 Estimates of National Medical Care Expenditure were 34,808,400,000,000 yen, 672,500,000,000 yen—2.0% increase from the previous fiscal year. The Estimates of National Medical Care Expenditure per capita were 272,600 yen—2.0% increase from the previous fiscal year. Both amounts were record high. The percentage of Estimates of National Medical Care Expenditure to the national income was 9.89%—0.88 % increase from the previous fiscal year.
- Viewing the Estimates of National Medical Care Expenditure by type of system, the expenses for “Health care insurance” were 16,954,800,000,000 yen (48.7%), the expenses for “Medical Service for the aged (for elderly in the latter stage of life)” were 10,427,300,000,000 yen (30.0%), “Public expense” were 2,331,000,000,000 yen (6.7%), “The medical fee paid by patients” were 4,914,100,000,000 yen (14.1%) and the expenses for “Exceptional measure for reduction of the medical fee paid by patients” were 181,300,000,000 yen (0.5%).
- From this year, statistics of the Estimates of National Medical Care Expenditure per capita by sex and age (5 year groups) were gathered. In under 20 and 45-74 age groups, males accounted for more than females. In 20-44, 75 and over 75 age groups, females accounted for more than males.

Please click [here](#) for the details (Japanese only)

Outline of Scope and Estimates of National Medical Care Expenditure

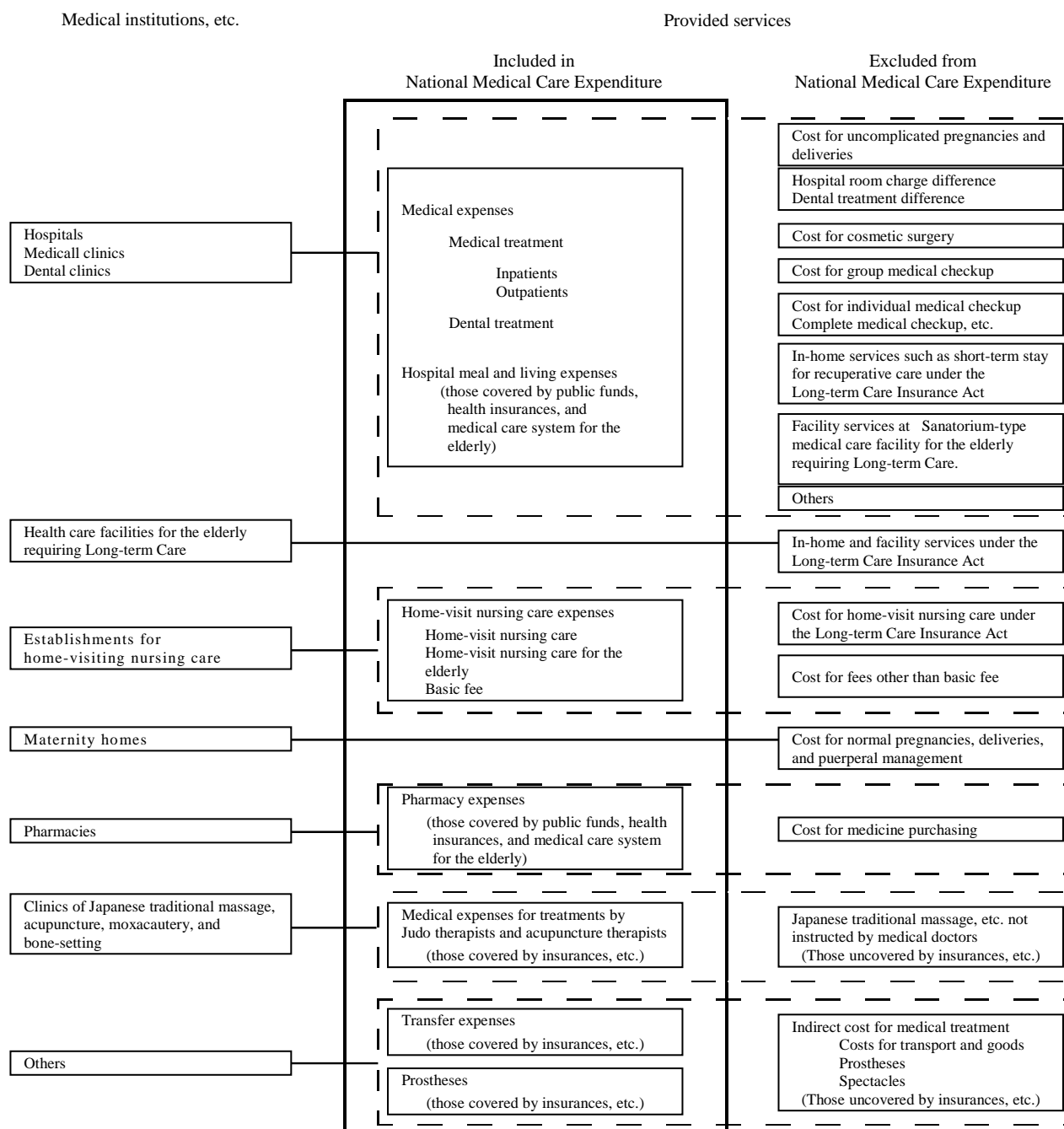
1 Scope of National Medical Care Expenditure

“National Medical Care Expenditure” is an estimate of expenditure spent on treatments for diseases and injuries at health care institutions during the year of estimate. These estimates include medical expenses, pharmacy expenses, hospital meal and living expenses, and home-visit nursing care expenses as well as transfer expenses provided by medical insurance, etc.

Scope of National Medical Care Expenditure is limited to treatments for diseases and injuries, therefore excludes (1) cost for uncomplicated pregnancies and deliveries, (2) cost for medical checkups and protective inoculations for maintenance and enhancement of health, and (3) cost for prostheses for eyes and limbs required for established disabilities, etc.

Additionally, it excludes cost to cover differences in hospital room charge and dental treatment.

Scope of National Medical Care Expenditure



2 Outline of the estimate method

National medical care expenditure was estimated by type of system using the methods described in (1) to (3) below.

- (1) Confirmed payment (including high cost medical treatment expenses) in the year of estimate in principle for “Public expense” covered by national government or local public agency under public expenditure system, “Social insurance” as medical insurance system, workers' compensation insurance system, etc., and “Medical Service for the aged” as medical treatment by the Health and Medical Service Law for the Aged
- (2) Estimate of patient copayment involving (1) among the medical fee paid by patients
- (3) Estimate of complete private payment for diseases and injuries (cost paid by automobile liability insurance or as private medical treatment) among the medical fee paid by patients

Then, based on the estimates of national medical care expenditure described above, estimates of national medical care expenditure by source of fund by type of medical treatment, by age group, and estimates of general medical treatment expenditure by classification of diseases were estimated from distribution using percentages provided by each survey.

3 Definitions

- (1) Estimates of national medical care expenditure by source of fund

Public funds Expenses covered by share of national treasury and local public agencies for public medical service system, medical insurance system, and medical care system for the elderly

Insurance premium Fee due to be paid as insurance premium (tax) by the insured of the national health insurance, the insured and business owners in benefit from medical insurance system, medical care system for the elderly, and workers' compensation insurance system

Others Patient copayment and payment by responsible party (compensation benefit by Act on Compensation, etc. of Pollution-related Health Damage and relief benefits by health damage relief system)

- (2) Estimates of national medical care expenditure by type of medical treatment

General medical expenses: Medical expenses for medical treatment and cost for treatment by Judo therapist, acupuncture therapists, etc., transfer, prostheses, that are benefitted by medical insurance, etc.

Dental expenses: Medical expenses for dental treatment

Pharmacy expenses: Cost for medicines, etc. provided by insurance pharmacies on prescription by medical doctors (sum of medical product price and technical costs including basic dispensing fee, etc.)

Hospital meal and living expenses: “Hospital meal expenses” until 2005 (sum of hospital meal expenses and standard cost) and since 2006, total of hospital meal expenses, standard cost for hospital meal, hospital living expenses, and standard cost for hospital living

Home-visit nursing care expenses: Total of home-visit nursing care expenses, expenses of home-visit nursing care expense for the elderly and basic fee for each

4 Notes

- (1) Symbols used in the tables

Quantity zero	—
Item/Category not applicable	.
Data not available or applicable	...
Estimate not zero, but less than 1/2 of units or minimal percentage	0, 0.0
Decreased number (percentage)	△

- (2) Values presented in the outline of survey results are rounded and the sums of the items do not always

make up the totals.

- (3) Data of public expenses and patient copayment in estimates of national medical care expenditure by type of system and by source of fund are altered retroactively up to 1996 when survey method for medical care expenditure in “public expense benefit” involving solely local public agency was changed in 2005. Therefore, those data since 2005 are presented in different values from those until 2004 estimates of national medical care expenditure.

References:

- ”Health Statistics in Japan 2007” (page 39-42)
<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/database/db-hss/dl/hs2007a.pdf>
- Japanese: Estimates of National Medical Care Expenditure (国民医療費)
<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/saikin/hw/k-iryohi/07/gaiyou.html>
<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/list/37-19.html>