

2. Major Laws Enacted in FY2010

Title: Act on Partial Revision of the National Health Insurance Act, etc. in Ensuring Stable Operation of the Health Care Insurance System	
Promulgation Date: May 19, 2010	Effective Date: May 19, 2010 (except (1)[4], (2)[4], and (3)[3] of 2., which were enforced on July 1, 2010)
Act No.: 35	Responsible Division: National Health Insurance Division, Division of the Health Services System for the Elderly, and Employees' Health Insurance Division of Health Insurance Bureau
<p>1. Purpose of the law Any necessary reforms shall be take place in thus securing stable operation of the health care insurance system, including revision of measures to improve the financial basis of National Health Insurance from 2010 on and revision of the percentage of the state subsidy provided to Japan Health Insurance Association-managed Health Insurance, etc.</p> <p>2. Details of revision</p> <p>(1) Partial revision of the National Health Insurance Act</p> <p>[1] Extension of the period of measures used to improve the financial basis (joint project on high medical care, joint project on insurance finance stabilization, and insurer support system), a temporary measure up to FY2009, to up to 4 years.</p> <p>[2] Creation of a system in which prefectures can formulate "support policies for wide area operation, etc." of the National Health Insurance operated by municipalities and the provision municipalities with guidance in accordance with the support policies.</p> <p>[3] Abolishment of obligations for municipalities to consult prefectural governors prior to any cases involving the provision of extra-statutory benefits, etc. and municipalities with high medical expenditure in thus formulating stabilization plans in consideration of the 3rd Recommendation of the Council for Decentralization Reform</p> <p>[4] Expansion of the coverage of short-term health insurance certificates, which were conventionally issued to children aged 15 or younger in households eligible for National Health Insurance Certificate, to children aged 18 or younger</p> <p>(2) Partial revision of the Health Insurance Act, etc.</p> <p>[1] Raising the percentage of the state subsidy used for the insurance benefit expenses, etc. of Japan Health Insurance Association-managed Health Insurance (JHIA-managed Health Insurance) from 13% to 16.4% during the period of FY2010 and FY2012 (the raise is effective from July 2010)</p> <p>[2] Revision of the maximum premium rate of JHIA-managed Health Insurance</p> <p>[3] The premium rate of JHIA-managed Health Insurance by prefecture shall have prescribing exceptions to the requirements for balancing the budget every fiscal year and legal prescription of a framework to ensure medium-term financial soundness</p> <p>[4] The premium rate of JHIA-managed Health Insurance by prefecture shall have the period measures used for extended in easing the sudden change</p> <p>(3) Partial revision of the Act on Assurance of Medical Care for Elderly People</p> <p>[1] Making Fiscal Stability Funds of late-stage medical care system available for use in restraining any increase in the premiums for late-stage medical care system for the elderly</p> <p>[2] Utilization of the necessary measures to continue application of premium reduction measures for those who were dependents of insured persons of employee insurance before participating in the late-stage medical care system, which was conventionally available for two years after participation</p> <p>[3] Change in the method of sharing the cost of support coverage for the late-stage elderly from the current method, which is based on the number of subscribers, to a method based on total compensation (ability to pay) for 1/3 (2/9 for FY 2010) of the total support coverage for the late-stage elderly during the period between FY2010 and FY2012.</p>	

Title: Act on Arrangement of Relevant Acts to Support Community Life of Persons with Disabilities, etc. until Health and Welfare Measures for Persons with Disabilities are Reviewed based on the Discussions at Headquarters to Promote Reform of the System for Persons with Disabilities	
Promulgation Date: December 10, 2010	Effective Date: Refer to below
Act No.: 71	Responsible Division: Policy Planning Division of Vocational Training Promotion Division, Welfare Division for Persons with Disabilities, and Mental Health and Disability Health Division of Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief Bureau
<p>1. Purpose The Services and Support for Persons with Disabilities Act and Child Welfare Act, etc. shall be partially revised. The Act aims to revise the relevant laws in supporting the community lives of persons with disabilities, etc. until the health and welfare measures for persons with disabilities get reviewed based on discussions at the Headquarters to Promote Reform of the System for Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p>2. Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Revising co-payments (enforced on the day specified by Cabinet Order but no later than April 1, 2012 (scheduled to be enforced on April 1, 2012)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-payments shall, in principle, be based on the ability to pay • Co-payments for welfare services for persons with disabilities and prosthetic appliances shall be totaled in thus reducing the burden ○ Revision of scope of persons with disabilities (enforced on the promulgation date) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification that the Services and Support for Persons with Disabilities Act applies to anyone with a developmental disorder ○ Improved consultation support (enforced on April 1, 2012, in principle (scheduled)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcement of consultation support system (establishment of core consultation support centers in municipalities, legal establishment of "Independence Support Council", individual benefits for community transfer support/community adaptation support) • Review of payment determination process (which takes into consideration service, etc. usage plans), and significant expansion of persons subject to formulation of services, etc. usage plans ○ Reinforcement of support for children with disabilities (enforced on April 1, 2012) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced support in neighborhoods based on the Child Welfare Act (unification of facilities divided by type of disability, etc., and transfer of implementing entities of outpatient services from prefectures to municipalities) • Creation of after school day services and day-care center-visit support, etc. • Revision of measures to extend enrollment period (those aged 18 or older are covered by the Services and Support for Persons with Disabilities Act with consideration to not then having those currently enrolled in facilities discharged) ○ Enhanced support for independent lives in communities (enforced on the day specified by Cabinet Order but no later than April 1, 2012 (scheduled to be enforced on October 1, 2011)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of subsidies for use of group homes/care homes • Creation of services to support transportation of persons with severe visual disabilities (escort support; individual benefits) <p style="text-align: right;">etc.</p>	