

Mr. Katsunobu Kato, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare

February 25, 2020

**Request regarding the response to the new coronavirus**

Japan Patients Association  
Representative Director Yukiko Mori

Thank you for your continued efforts to promote measures against intractable and long-term chronic diseases. As for the response to the outbreak of the new coronavirus, I am sure that the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare is working diligently to take all possible measures to cope with the ever-changing situation. I would like to thank the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare for their efforts.

However, under the current infection situation, there is a good possibility that patients with underlying diseases such as intractable diseases and chronic diseases may become particularly serious. In addition, many patients with these diseases are taking immunosuppressive drugs and other medications on a daily basis. Therefore, they may be more susceptible to infection than the general public.

Therefore, we would like to request the following items to be taken into consideration when taking measures against the new coronavirus, so that all possible measures can be taken against patients with underlying diseases such as intractable diseases and patients with long-term chronic diseases.

-Efforts should be made to provide accurate information to the public and to thoroughly implement measures. In addition, efforts should be made to disseminate knowledge about the new coronavirus and countermeasures for patients with intractable diseases, long-term chronic diseases, and other underlying diseases, so as not to cause anxiety among such patients.

The government should take all possible measures to provide testing and treatment for patients with underlying diseases, such as patients with intractable diseases and long-term chronic diseases, and patients who are forced to undergo immunosuppression.

-Efforts should be made to develop measures and therapeutic agents to stop the spread of infection by the new coronavirus and to establish a treatment system.

-If costs are incurred in the prevention of the spread of infection or in the testing and treatment of patients, they should be borne free of charge or at a low cost from the perspective of preventing a social panic.