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

March 26, 2020

Urgent Request

Japan Patients Association

Representative Director   Yukiko Mori

Thank you for your continued efforts to promote measures against intractable and long-term chronic diseases. I would also like to express my great appreciation for your efforts and diligence in taking all possible measures to deal with the new coronavirus.

In this context, on February 25, 2020, we submitted a letter of request regarding the response to the new coronavirus. However, in view of the recent increase in the number of patients infected with the new coronavirus, we would like to make the following urgent requests.

- As the infection of the new coronavirus is spreading, patients with designated intractable diseases and patients with pediatric chronic specified diseases, etc. are at great risk of infection when they undergo various procedures, including medical visits and examinations necessary for the renewal procedures of medical expense subsidies, as well as requesting and obtaining clinical personal survey forms and physician opinion letters. Please consider extending the validity period of the renewal application for the beneficiary certificate for specified medical expenses for patients with designated intractable diseases and the beneficiary certificate for medical expense subsidies for patients with chronic specified diseases of childhood by one year.

-Please consider prioritizing the distribution of disinfectant solution, alcohol swabs, masks, etc. to the relevant patients to ensure that they have the necessary number of these items in order to avoid problems with hygiene management for patients on ventilators and patients who inject themselves.

-To prevent infection and serious illness in patients with underlying diseases that are said to be particularly susceptible to serious illness, or patients who are susceptible to infectious diseases due to the use of immunosuppressive drugs, etc., please distribute masks, disinfectant, etc. to the relevant patients on a priority basis so that patients can secure the necessary number.