

Mr. Yoshihide Suga, Prime Minister of Japan
Mr. Yasutoshi Nishimura, Minister of State for Economic Revitalization
Mr. Norihisa Tamura, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare

November 25, 2020

Urgent Request

Japan Patients Association
Representative Director Yukiko Mori

We are a national organization consisting of 93 patient groups of intractable and long-term chronic diseases.

Thank you for your continued efforts to promote measures against intractable and long-term chronic diseases.

We would like to express my sincere appreciation for your efforts and diligence in taking all possible measures to deal with the new coronavirus.

However, the number of patients infected with the new coronavirus has increased again, and there are concerns that a third wave may be on the way. The public health centers and medical institutions that have been helping us in the treatment of intractable diseases and long-term chronic diseases are also doing their best to diagnose the new coronavirus infection. However, I believe that the tightening of the medical system is imminent in Hokkaido, the Tokyo metropolitan area, the Kinki region, and other regions. I am also very concerned because I have heard that some areas are suffering from great exhaustion. We are also concerned that this situation will have a negative impact on the medical treatment of intractable diseases.

As a patient who needs continuous medical care over a long period of time because there is no cure for the disease, and as a patient with an underlying disease, we would like to make the following urgent requests in light of the recent situation as described above.

-In order to avoid a tightening of the healthcare system, please immediately strengthen infection control measures and maintain a system where all patients, including those with designated intractable diseases, pediatric chronic diseases, and long-term chronic diseases, can always receive the necessary medical care when needed.

-Please consider and implement immediately the expansion of relief measures for those who will be economically affected by the implementation of the above measures.

-By implementing the above measures, please secure the medical system (funds, manpower, and system) including the public health centers.

We believe that the life of every citizen is the same, whether it is the life of a patient, the life of a person affected by socioeconomic activities, or the life of a medical worker or health center employee. We hope that you will realize the above requests.