

An out-of-hours fee for treatment of patients' choice (*separate from the medical fee) will be charged at the time of a visit by a patient to the Emergency Medical Center as from June 1, 2024.

The fee for treatment of patients' choice is a system established by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Regulation: Notification of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare No. 107, 2006) to promote the sharing of functions among hospitals and clinics, whereby “initial treatment is provided by local clinics and family doctors, while advanced/specialized medical care is provided by hospitals with 200 or more beds”.

- Time zone covered (Reception hours of Emergency Medical Center)
 - From 4:00 p.m. on any weekday to 8:00 a.m. on the next day
 - Whole hours of Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, year-end and New Year's holidays, and Okinawa Memorial Day
- If you wish to visit a doctor during the above reception hours, you will be charged an out-of-hours fee for treatment of patients' choice, in addition to the medical fee.

“Out-of-hours fee for treatment of patients' choice” 7,700 yen (tax included)

- The following cases are not subject to collection of payment.
 - When hospitalized after visiting a doctor
 - Labor accidents, accidents in line of duty, traffic accidents
 - When a letter of referral is brought from another medical institution in an emergency
 - Recipients of medical aid
 - When a patient needs to see a doctor outside the opening hours due to the worsening of a disease being treated at this hospital
 - When ordered by a doctor of this hospital to visit the Emergency Medical Center
 - When a doctor in charge of the Emergency Medical Center judges a patient to receive urgent treatment
 - Other cases, for example where the hospital makes a judgement

Naha City Hospital, as a secondary emergency medical institution, is responsible for treatment of patients with serious cases who require hospitalization and/or surgery. However, due to an increase in the number of patients with mild cases who seek urgent outpatient service on holidays and at night, prompt response to patients with serious cases who need urgent treatment is currently subject to hindrance.

The "out-of-hours fee for treatment of patients' choice" is incurred by those who, as a result of their visit to a doctor, are not (much) required for urgent medical examination.

We ask for your understanding and cooperation in order to ensure a sustainable emergency medical care system and to protect emergency medical care in the community. For frequently asked questions, please see below.

Frequently asked questions

Q. What is a fee for treatment of patients' choice?

A. It is a system established in order to promote the “sharing of functions among medical institutions” by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, in which a fee (fee for treatment of patients' choice) other than a medical fee is also incurred when a patient visits an advanced treatment hospital / regional medical support hospital (equipped with 200 or more general beds) or a priority medical institution for referrals (equipped with 200 or more general beds) without bringing a letter of referral.

When a first-time patient or a patient referred to another medical institution visits us without a letter of referral, they will be charged a fee for treatment of patients' choice because this hospital is classified as a “regional medical hospital and also priority medical institution for referrals, equipped with 200 beds or more”.

Q. Let me know in detail about medical aid recipients.

A. Medical aid recipients are those who benefit from an assistance system for medical expenses, specified by the nation's system or law such as specified medical treatment under the Intractable Diseases Act, pediatric chronic specified medical treatment, psychiatric rehabilitation, the Specified Disease Treatment Research Program, the Special Promotion Program for Hepatitis Cure, medical aid under the Public Assistance Act, etc. This also applies to those who benefit from an assistance system for medical expenses, specified by a local government such as medical treatment for the disabled, medical treatment for the mentally disabled, welfare and medical service for the late elderly, etc.

Q. Will the fee be incurred in the case of transportation by ambulance as well?

A. If the patient is not hospitalized as a result of his/her visit, he/she will be subject to the fee for treatment of patients' choice. Regardless of the method of a visit to the hospital, those who are so seriously ill as to be hospitalized are not subject to treatment of patients' choice.