

This is a reference document to aid understanding.

The official document is the Japanese document issued by the Public Health Center.

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**If diagnosed with tuberculosis and hospitalized...
(Article 37)**

★ What is tuberculosis?

Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease in which tubercle bacilli are inhaled and cause inflammation, mainly of the lungs. If the disease is mild and the bacteria are not excreted in the phlegm/sputum, there is no risk of infecting others.

If the bacteria are excreted in the phlegm, they may be spread when you cough or sneeze, and people around you may inhale the bacteria and become infected. (Even if you are infected with tuberculosis, you will not necessarily develop the disease.)

Tuberculosis is a disease that can be cured by taking medicine properly following a doctor's instructions (usually for at least 6 months).

★ Notification of TB

Since TB is an infectious disease, a doctor who diagnoses a patient is required by law to notify the Public Health Center of the patient's address, name, date of birth, sex, occupation, etc.

Upon receiving the notification from the doctor, the Public Health Center will ask about the patient's symptoms, living conditions, etc., based on information from the medical institution and through interviews with the patient and/or the family members.

★ Recommendation of hospitalization and protection of human rights

If, as a result of the interviews, the Public Health Center determines that the patient may infect others living with him/her, it will make a "recommendation of hospitalization based on the Infectious Diseases Control Law" and have the patient hospitalized at a medical institution that has tuberculosis beds.

In order to protect human rights of the patient, the hospitalized patient or the guardian of the patient, if they have any opinions or complaints, can report them to the Public Health Center.

The Public Health Center will decide on the "recommendation of hospitalization" after considering the opinions of experts from the Infectious Disease Screening Council and the patient.

(Note) If the patient needs to be hospitalized for other illnesses and there is no risk of infection, the "recommendation for hospitalization" will not be made.

★ Public expenditure system for medical expenses

If a patient is hospitalized at a medical institution with tuberculosis beds in accordance with the "hospitalization recommendation," a portion of the hospitalization medical expenses will be covered by public funds (depending on the patient's income situation, the entire hospitalization medical expenses may be paid by public funds).

The Public Health Center will issue a "Patient Certificate" based on the application for public expense payment, and by presenting it to the medical institution, the medical expenses will be paid by public funds.

★ Medical examination for people who were in contact with the patient

The Public Health Center, if necessary, will recommend that people who are at risk of being infected with TB, including the patient's family members or persons who have had contact with the patient, undergo a medical examination.

Contact us if you have any questions or concerns...

