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## **Japanese Reimbursement System for HD and Online HDF**

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Japan, like South Korea, is a country with universal health insurance. Various systems reduce the cost burden for dialysis patients in Japan, and they can receive dialysis treatment almost free of charge. Medical fees in Japan are reviewed once every two years. It was also reviewed in April 2022. Basically, Charge for Hemodialysis treatment is the sum of medical examination fees (re-examination fees), Hemodialysis fee, Dialyzer, Injection drugs (e.g., Iron, Vit D, Calcimimetic.), examination fees. The re-examination fee is 760 yen, common to all departments. Hemodialysis fee is the main dialysis fee, which includes anticoagulants, saline and dialysate. ESA has been bundled with hemodialysis fee since 2006, and HIF stabilizer was also bundled in this 2022 fee revision. Hemodialysis fees are set for nine prices due to "dialysis time" and "efficiency". There are some additional charges for dialysis fees (e.g. HDF, Water purification, PAT management etc.). The amount billed for one dialysis session is about 30,000 yen. For on-line-HDF, medical institutions can charge an HDF addition of 500 yen per session in addition to the hemodialysis fee since 2012 revision. Since then, the number of patients receiving online HDF especially the predilution method, has remarkably increased.

At 2022 fee revision, the dialysis fee was reduced (390 yen). But the biggest point is that HIF stabilizers were bundled with hemodialysis fee. When bundled, many dialysis clinics are expected to provide renal anemia treatment in consideration of costs. Therefore, the use of HIF stabilizers may be suppressed in Japanese dialysis treatment in the future.

Table1. Hemodialysis fee in Japan

		"Efficiency" Category	1	2	3
Hemodialysis fee (per session)	Hemodialysis fee (HIF stabilizer in-hospital prescriptions)	~4hr	1885	1845	1805
		4~5hr	2045	2005	1960
		5hr~	2180	2135	2090
	Other(hemodialysis fee)		1580		
	Add. of water purification		10		
	Add. of Long hemodialysis(>6hr )		150		
	Add. of on-line-HDF		50		
	Add. of night and holiday		380		
	Add. of difficult dialysis		140		
	Add. of initiation period (Within 1 Month)		1	200	
2			400		
3			800		
Add. of exercise advice (per month)		75			
Add. of PAT management (per month)		100			

Figure1. Rapid increase of HDF patients since 2012

