

Signing Up for Long-Term Care

- The Osaka City Certification Center was opened in February 2012.
- The center accepts applications for Care (Support) Need Certification by mail so that applicants do not have to visit the center.
- For inquiries about applications or procedures, please call the Osaka City Certification Center at 06-4392-1700

1 Application

First, you should apply to the Osaka City Certification Center for "Long-Term Care/Support Need Certification." You may also request In-Home Care Service Providers, Long-Term Care Insurance Facilities, or Local Comprehensive Support Centers to file an application on your behalf.

Documents Required

- Application form for Long-Term Care/Support Need Certification
- Long-Term Care Insurance Card

Note: If you are between the ages of 40 and 64, a copy of your Health Insurance Card (or proof of being covered under a Medical Insurance Program) is also required.

2 Health Check-up (Certification Interview)

Examiners certified by the Osaka City Government will check your mental and physical conditions. A public health nurse from the ward office will also be present, as required.

Assistance Service

The City offers free interpreter services to foreigners as well as other assistants for those who feel uncomfortable about the interview or those who have difficulty communicating because of their handicaps.



3 Doctor's Review (Physician's Report)

The City of Osaka will request your family doctor to write a report about your mental and physical conditions.

Note: You do not need to make a request yourself.



4 Assessment by Specialists (Long-Term Care Need Assessment Committee)

Based on the results of the certification interview and your family doctor's report, health, medical, and welfare specialists will determine the appropriate level of care (i.e. the level of care required).



8 Renewal

In principle, your certification is valid only for 6 months (renewed certifications for 12 months). This period can be extended to 24 months or shortened to 3 months based on your health condition.

You must apply for certification renewal 60 days before it expires if you wish to continue receiving services.

If your health condition changes, you may file an application to change the level of care required at any time, regardless of the expiration date.

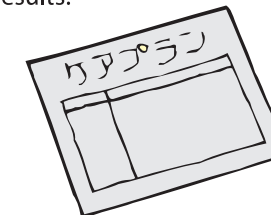
7 Services

Care services will be provided for you according to your care plan. As a rule, you will be responsible for 10% or 20% of the costs. After completing the procedures in Steps 1 through 6, you can begin to use services within the valid period which is determined in Step 5. If you wish to continue receiving services beyond this period, you must proceed to Step 8 to renew your certification.



6 Care Plan Preparation

You can consult with a care manager to determine what services you need. They will draw up a care plan for you based on your certification results.



Note: It is possible to use services before you receive certification, however, you may have to pay the full cost for the services you used depending on your certification results. If you require services prior to certification, please consult with your care manager beforehand.

5 Notification of Certification Results

Notice of Assessment Results

Based on the judgment of the committee, the City of Osaka decides the level of care required, either Long-Term Care Need or Long-Term Support Need.

Level of Care Required

Care Level 5	May request long-term care services
Care Level 4	
Care Level 3	
Care Level 2	
Care Level 1	
Support Level 2	May request preventive care
Support Level 1	
Not certified (Self-support)	May request preventive care programs