Q & A

for those who are bringing medicines into Japan
Q1. Can I bring any prescription medicine into Japan?

A1. You can bring any prescription medicine into Japan with you without any special procedure on condition that:
1) you bring it only for your own use
2) it is not any prohibited drug such as Methamphetamine in Japan,
3) it is not any especially controlled drug such as Narcotics in Japan,
4) and its quantity is up to one-month supply.

Q2. How can I bring more than one-month supply of any oral or external prescription medicine only for my own use into Japan?

A2. You can bring more than one-month supply of any prescription medicine, if you apply for an official certificate named “Yakkan Shoumei”, and obtain it prior to your departure.

Q3. How can I bring any injection and injector only for my own use into Japan?

A3. You can bring up to one-month supply, only for your own use. If you bring more than that, you should apply for “Yakkan Shoumei”.

Q4. How can I receive a “Yakkan Shoumei”?

A4. You have to submit the application documents by post mail or e-mail. If your application documents are complete, Pharmaceutical Inspector issues “Yakkan Shoumei” and sends it back to you either by post (when a return envelope is provided) or e-mail.

Q5. What kind of documents are required for “Yakkan Shoumei”?

A5. The following documents are required for “Yakkan Shoumei”:
1) **Import Report of Medication** (with your signature, and 2 copies required). Fill in the application form (see the “Application Forms” attached) according to the sample.
2) **Explanation of the Products**. Fill in the form (as the sample provided). Alternative documents, pamphlets by manufacturers and so on, can be accepted, if they show the descriptions required in Explanation of the Products.
3) **Copy of Prescription or Direction for medicines with doctor’s signature**, Pharmaceutical Inspector can confirm your name and each medicine name and the quantity only for your own use clearly. The issuing date should be within 6 months.
4) **Document indicating Arrival Date and Place** (e.g. Copy of Airline Ticket or Flight Itinerary.)
5) In case you want to receive Yakkan Shoumei by post mail, please enclose Return Envelope with address where you want to receive and “Coupon–Réponse International” available at post offices or “International Postal Money Order for US$2.00 worth” as postage.

Q6. To which office can I submit application documents for a “Yakkan Shoumei”?

A6. If you arrive at Narita or Haneda International Airport, you have to submit the application documents to our office. The address is:

By post mail: Pharmaceutical Inspector
   Section of Inspection and Guidance,
   Kanto-Shin’etsu Regional Bureau,
   Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
   Saitama-Shintoshin Godochosha 1, 7th floor,
   1-1 Sintoshin, Chuo-ku, Saitama City, Saitama Prefecture, JAPAN 330-9713

By e-mail: yakkan@mhlw.go.jp

If you arrive at Kansai, Chubu or Fukuoka International Airport, you have to submit the application documents to Kinki Regional Bureau. The address is:

By post mail: Pharmaceutical Inspector
   Section of Inspection and Guidance,
   Kinki Regional Bureau,
   Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare,
   Ohue Blding,7th floor,
   1-1-22 Nonin Bashi, Osaka City, Chuo-ku, Osaka Prefecture, JAPAN 540-0011

By e-mail: kiyakuji@mhlw.go.jp

Q7. What shall I do, if I have received a “Yakkan Shoumei”?

A7. A “Yakkan Shoumei” is that one of your two Import Report of Medication, where is returned with officially stamped, numbered and sealed by Pharmaceutical Inspector. You have to bring the “Yakkan Shoumei” (e-mail copy is fine) with your medicines and show it to the Customs when you arrive in Japan. It will be valid only when your luggage contents are the same (or below) as indicated on the “Yakkan Shoumei”. You have to take care never to correct the “Yakkan Shoumei”, or it becomes invalid.

Q8. How long does it take to receive a “Yakkan Shoumei”?

A8. By post mail: It depends on the completeness of your application documents and days by post required. If you are in North America, Europe or Australia, they say that it takes the application documents about a week to reach Japan by post and it takes another week to
return to you. So it usually takes about two weeks in total to receive a “Yakkan Shoumei”, even if your application documents are complete.

By e-mail: It takes approximately 1-4 days.

Q9. What shall I do, if my application is rejected because of lack of documents?

A9. If your application documents are not complete, the Pharmaceutical Inspector may request the additional or revised documents. If you show your fax number or e-mail address, you can receive his request more rapidly. Please write down your address, fax number or e-mail address clearly and correctly.

Q10. How can I bring Narcotics, if I need them by all means in order to treat my disease?

A10. If you need to bring Narcotics (Hydrocodone, Fentanyl and so on) into Japan in order to treat your disease, you have to apply for a Special Certificate issued by Narcotics Control Department, which is a Special Police for Narcotics. If you are found with Narcotics in Japan without a Special Certificate, you can be arrested as a criminal on the spot, immediately, without a warrant in principle. In case you arrive at Narita or Haneda International Airport, you contact the following for the certificate.
Narcotics Control Department, Kanto-Shin'etsu Regional Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
(TEL: +81-3-3512-8691)
(FAX: +81-3-3512-8689)
(e-mail: tokyoncd@mhlw.go.jp)

Q11. Is Codeine Phosphate one of Narcotics in Japan?

A11. Any medicine containing Codeine Phosphate more than one percent is defined as one of Narcotics in Japan.

Q12. Can I bring a stimulant into Japan?

A12. Any medicine containing Methamphetamine or Amphetamine is defined as one of “Prohibited Stimulants” and strictly restricted in Japan. Nobody can bring it (Adderall and so on) into Japan. If you are found with any medicine above illegally in Japan, you can be arrested as a criminal on the spot, immediately, without a warrant in principle.
Q13. Can I bring Pseudoephedrine into Japan?

A13. Any medicine containing more than 10 % of Pseudoephedrine is defined as one of Stimulant Raw Materials in Japan and you cannot bring it into Japan.

Q14. What shall I do, if I have further questions regarding medicines which I am bringing into Japan?

A14. Please contact any Pharmaceutical Inspector in our office by fax(+81-48-601-1336) or e-mail (yakkan@mhlw.go.jp).