

Are you leaving Japan while still on TB treatment? Let us assist.



"I have started my TB treatment in Japan but I have to go back to my country"

"I don't know which hospital to go to once I go back..."

"Will I be able to continue with the same medicine?"

It is vital that you complete the TB treatment as prescribed by your doctor, to protect the health and wellbeing of you and your loved ones. Let us, Bridge TB Care (BTBC), assist you so that you continue to receive care and treatment after you leave Japan, and make sure that you are cured.

What is BTBC?

BTBC is a cross-border referral program run by the Research Institute of Tuberculosis, Japan. We assist TB patients who wish to continue their treatment outside Japan, by coordinating with your treating physician and public health center in Japan, and with National TB Programme and possible treatment facilities in your country of destination, and make sure that you continue to receive appropriate care and treatment.

How do I start? What happens if I enroll to BTBC?

STEP 1

Please express your wish to receive support from BTBC either to your public health nurse, or treating physician.

STEP 2

The public health nurse or the physician will ask you questions and collect the necessary information to start the referral, and ask you to sign the informed consent form. The information and the informed consent form will then be sent to BTBC.

STEP 3

BTBC staff will communicate with the focal contact person in the country you are travelling to, to coordinate smooth referral. We will identify treatment facility(ies) where you can continue your TB treatment after you arrive, and let you know directly, or through the public health nurse/treating physician in Japan.

STEP 4

After you arrive at your destination country, please visit the treatment facility. BTBC staff and/or focal contact person in your country may communicate with you to assist you solve any problems you may encounter in accessing the facility.

STEP 5

Please feel free to contact BTBC staff if you experience any difficulties during your treatment – otherwise, BTBC will communicate with you and/or the focal contact persons in your country at the end of your treatment, to confirm the completion of treatment. Please be advised that it is also the responsibility of BTBC to let the public health center in Japan know of the final treatment outcome.

Your timetable

BTBC steps			Expected date	Treatment status	What you have to do	Notes:
STEP 1	Before you leave Japan	Enroll to BTBC ~ departure	/	On treatment	Let your public health nurse /physician know of your wish to receive support from BTBC	
STEP 2			/		Sign informed consent	
STEP 3			/		Receive information regarding treatment facility(facilities) in the country you are travelling to	
STEP 4	After you leave Japan	Approx 1 month after arrival	/	Finish treatment	Visit the treatment facility (bring with you the DOT note, the referral form, and medicine)	
STEP 5		Until the end of treatment	/		Seek medical assistance for side-effects and clinical issues. Contact us for any other issues or problems you may have.	

Q & A

Q1. Will my privacy protected?

A1. Of course – the information we have collected from you will be treated confidentially and will not be shared /used for any other purpose. For details, please read the Informed Consent form.

Q2. I do not want my family to know that I have TB

A2. You can request us not to contact your family and still receive support from BTBC. In which case, we ask you to provide us a number through which we can contact you after you arrive in your country.

Q3. Can I go to a hospital or health center of my choice?

A3. We will make sure that the hospital is capable of providing appropriate TB treatment that you need, and coordinate accordingly.

Q4. Can I receive the same treatment regimen even if I go back?

A4. TB treatment regimen is standardized across the world, but the way it is prescribed may differ from country to country.

What's the benefit of BTBC?

1. You will not have to search for treatment facilities that can provide proper TB treatment yourself.
2. You will not have to explain about the treatment regimens and test results to your new doctor yourself.
3. You will not have to repeat TB examinations after you arrive in your country.
4. You can be assured that you continue to receive TB care and treatment...and cure TB!

Contact

For any questions, feel free to contact any of us in the BTBC team:

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We bridge TB care for you.