

Business Overview



Dispensing Pharmacy Business

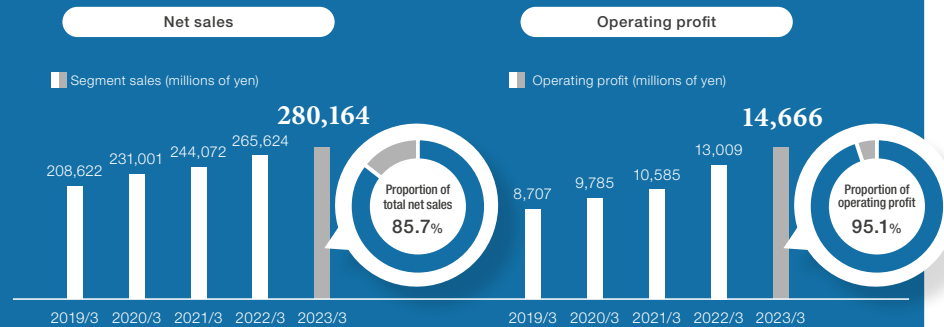


Nihon Chouzai Co., Ltd., other dispensing subsidiaries

Vision for Growth

"To give people the closest possible support," Nihon Chouzai has always sought to tackle healthcare issues head-on, even as those issues have shifted drastically with the times. The Group's growth is not tied only to meeting the immediate needs of patients—we take pride in having been able to anticipate the times, flexibly embrace change, and move before anyone else to address social issues that are just over the horizon.

We will further hone the strengths we have cultivated so far—our capacity to respond to diversifying medical needs, our ability to provide quality healthcare, and our capacity to respond to the digital transformation of healthcare—as we pursue growth over the longer term.



Three Strengths

Capacity to respond to diversifying medical needs

Nihon Chouzai leads the industry in responding to diversifying medical needs, continuing to grow as a comprehensive healthcare brand as we support regional healthcare collaboration and at-home healthcare, offer online pharmacy services, and expand our health support functions. Moreover, we are responding agilely to changes in the healthcare environment in Japan amid ongoing reforms to the healthcare system, including revisions to dispensing fees and drug prices and calls for the digital transformation of healthcare.

Providing quality healthcare

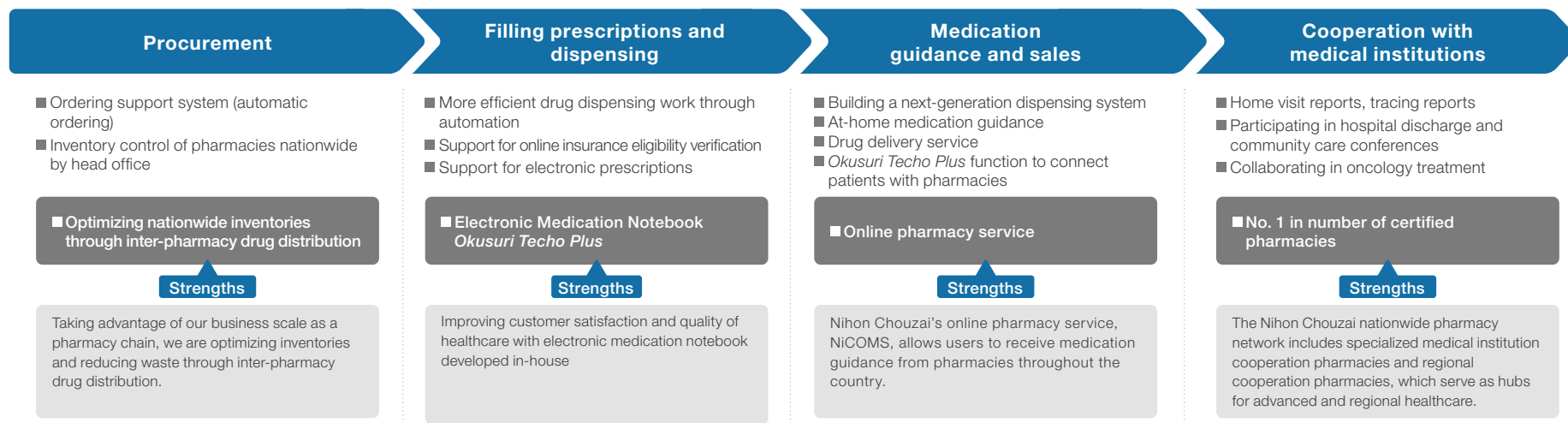
Approximately 70% of Nihon Chouzai pharmacies are located in front of or on the premises of university hospitals and major regional hospitals that provide advanced healthcare. We are also consistently ahead of the industry in responding to diversifying medical needs. We will also step up efforts to handle specialty drugs, for which demand is expected to grow in the future.

Capacity to respond to digital transformation of healthcare

Since its founding, Nihon Chouzai has actively incorporated ICT into its business activities, drawing on advanced innovation capabilities. We have been pursuing digital transformation strategies in the healthcare field, such as the in-house development of dispensing systems and the *Okusuri Techo Plus* electronic medication notebook. As demand for "smart healthcare" increases, we will lead the way in transforming the healthcare industry through remote medication guidance and other initiatives.



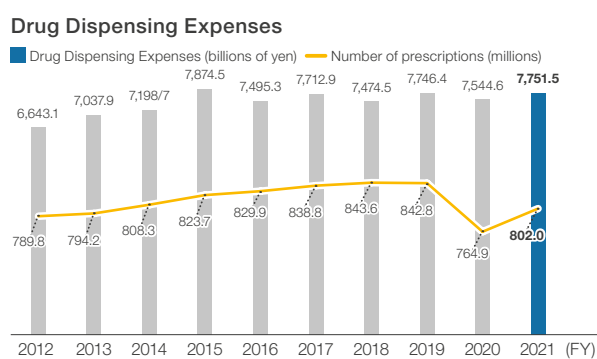
Value Chain and Competitive Advantages of the Dispensing Pharmacy Business



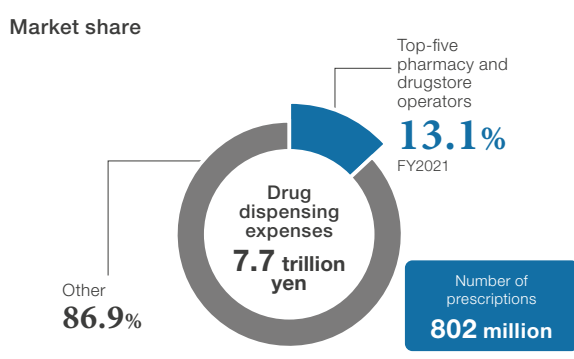
Market Environment

In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Japanese government has been pursuing reforms to the healthcare system and promoting the digital transformation of healthcare. It deregulated remote medication guidance and introduced a refill prescription system in April 2022, and introduced electronic prescriptions in January 2023. These government reforms to the healthcare system are helping to spur realignment in the pharmacy sector,

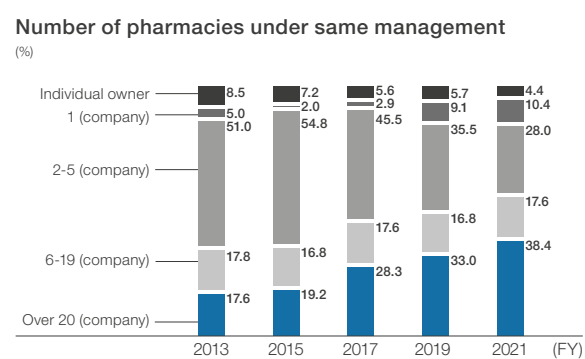
which is expected to lead to fewer pharmacies and greater consolidation of pharmacies. The market share of the five major dispensing pharmacy operators, including the Company, is less than 15%, leaving significant room for market share expansion.



Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare *Trend of Dispensing and Medical Care Expenses (Computerized) 2021 Edition*



Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare *Trend of Dispensing and Medical Care Expenses 2021 Edition*



Source: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare First Working Group on In-Pharmacy Pharmacist Operations and Pharmacy Functions, *Outline of Basic Data on In-Pharmacy Pharmacists*

Responding to Diversifying Medical Needs

Pharmacy network strategy focused on balance to meet a broad array of patient needs

To provide high-quality healthcare services nationwide, Nihon Chouzai is pursuing a balanced pharmacy network strategy. Based on the family pharmacist and pharmacy functions stipulated by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, we distinguish our pharmacies between those that offer advanced drug management requiring highly specialized knowledge and those that offer health support functions that contribute to better pre-symptomatic illness and disease prevention in the community. We have pharmacies in all 47 prefectures in Japan.

Hybrid pharmacies

Pharmacies that combine the elements of neighborhood pharmacies, which are in locations with convenient access, such as downtown areas or near train stations, with medical center-type pharmacies, which serve clusters of medical institutions. Hybrid pharmacies fill prescriptions from medical facilities across a relatively wide area, but also serve as a familiar healthcare hub for neighborhood residents and people commuting to work or school.



Online pharmacy service

NiCOMS, an online pharmacy service developed by Nihon Chouzai, allows users to make reservations to receive remote medication guidance at home or elsewhere. In addition to helping prevent infectious diseases, customers who are too busy to visit a pharmacy or patients who live far away can easily make use of this service via their smartphones or computers.



Hospital-front/on-site pharmacies

Located near or on the premises of university hospitals and major regional hospitals that provide advanced healthcare, these pharmacies offer advanced healthcare serving a wide range of medical specialties. As hospital-front/on-site pharmacies often fill prescriptions for drugs that require advanced pharmaceutical management, highly specialized knowledge and skills, as well as the highest level of medical services, are required.



Pharmacies with various functions

The Vision of Pharmacies for Patients announced by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) set forth concrete functions required of pharmacists and pharmacies going forward. A system allowing prefectural governors to certify certain pharmacies with such functions as regional cooperation pharmacies or specialized medical institution cooperation pharmacies was launched in August 2021. Nihon Chouzai is developing a network of pharmacies offering an array of other functions as well. These include health support pharmacies, which offer consultation on a wide range of health-related issues; certified Nutrition Care Stations, where local residents can easily receive nutritional care support and guidance; and pharmacies equipped with a Health Check-Up Station, a distinctive initiative of Nihon Chouzai to help local residents stay healthy and to deal with pre-symptomatic illness and disease prevention.

Specialized medical institution cooperation pharmacies

45 pharmacies / 141 pharmacies nationwide

Pharmacies, authorized by prefectural governors, that cooperate closely with other healthcare facilities to serve patients who require specialized drug management. These pharmacies also engage in special kinds of dispensing that call for more advanced drug management and greater specialization. Currently, pharmacies with a high degree of expertise in oncology treatment can receive this accreditation.

Regional cooperation pharmacies

459 pharmacies / 3,672 pharmacies nationwide

Pharmacies, authorized by prefectural governors, that collaborate as needed with regional medical institutions and other pharmacies, serving as bridges between hospitals (medical care) and long-term care facilities or residences (long-term care).

Health Support Pharmacies

178 pharmacies

Pharmacies meeting health support standards established by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare that have functions to actively support local residents and patients so that they can lead healthy and abundant lives.

Certified Nutrition Care Stations

28

Facilities certified by the Japan Dietetic Association as a community hub where local residents can easily receive nutritional care support and guidance. Through services such as nutrition consultations, health events, and nutrition classes, registered dietitians support residents in leading healthy and fulfilling lives.

Supporting at-home healthcare

The advent of a super-aging society has triggered a shift away from inpatient treatment at medical institutions to ongoing at-home healthcare. As family pharmacies, the role of pharmacies in community-based healthcare teams is becoming more and more critical. Nihon Chouzai began augmenting its ability to respond to care needs at home and at long-term care facilities in 2009. We support patients in collaboration with facility staff, doctors, nurses, and care managers. Since 2010, we have offered a broad array of at-home healthcare services to support the needs of local communities, ranging from cancer and other serious illnesses to children with intractable diseases.

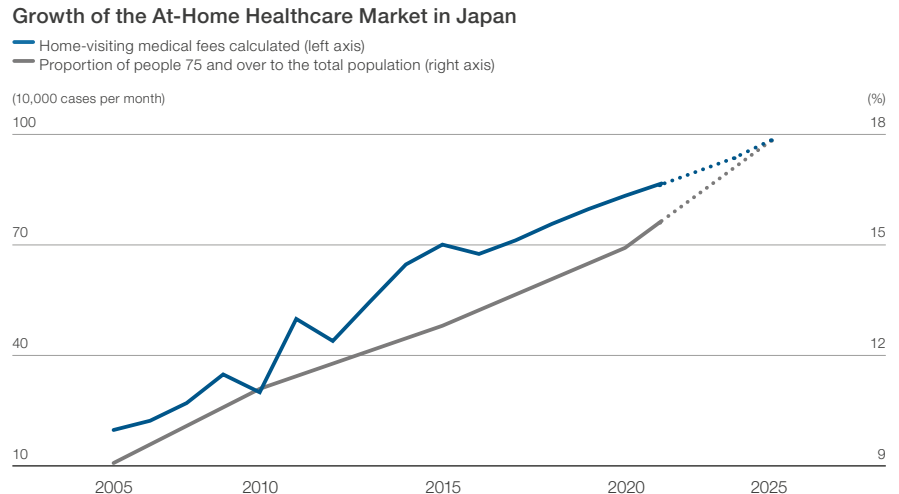
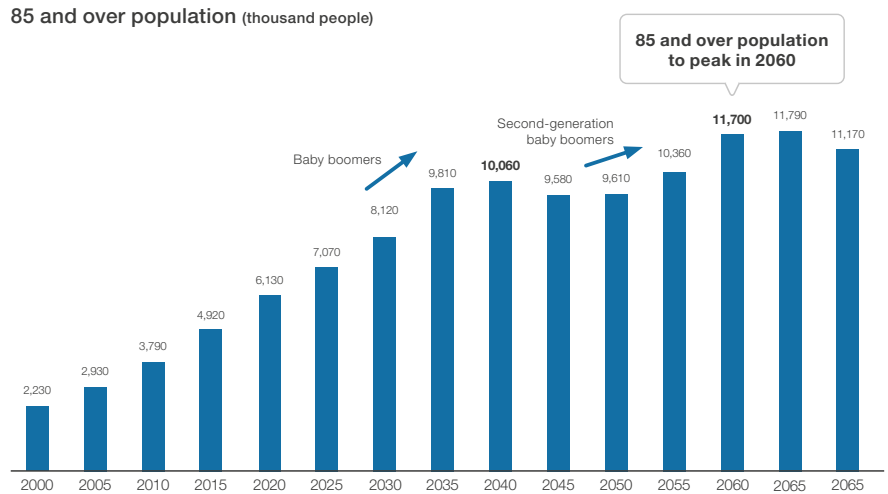
In terms of facilities at our pharmacies, we have remained ahead of the industry in equipping pharmacies with sterile dispensing rooms, which will be increasingly necessary for at-home healthcare going forward, allowing the preparation of injections, intravenous feeding solutions, and other sterile dispensing work.

In FY2011, Nihon Chouzai set up a department dedicated to at-home healthcare, and is actively promoting home-visiting drug management and guidance for patients being treated at home. All Nihon Chouzai pharmacies have now put in place a framework in which pharmacists can provide home-visiting drug management and guidance services.

Specialized at-home healthcare managers (Pharmacists) **12**

At-Home Medical Care Support Centers **27**

At-Home Medical Care Support Centers **20**



Supporting at-home healthcare

At-Home Medical Care Support Centers



Through 27 At-Home Medical Care Support Centers nationwide, Nihon Chouzai is providing a range of at-home care services to meet the needs in various regions. Pharmacists specializing in at-home healthcare are supporting primarily elderly patients as well as children with cancer, intractable diseases, and other serious illnesses. We make use of Anshin Fukuyaku-kun, an original medication support system developed in-house, to help boost adherence by preventing medication errors and managing medication information. Moreover, we actively support the health of patients in the region in collaboration with other healthcare professionals, including by having a pharmacist accompany patients to their medical examinations. Meanwhile, we are taking steps to ensure high-quality, safe healthcare services: Nihon Chouzai pharmacies are working to obtain ISO 9001, the international standard for quality management systems, for the provision of dispensing and medication distribution services by At-Home Medical Care Support Centers and drug sales operations.

TOPIC / At-Home Palliative Care Initiatives

One Nihon Chouzai pharmacy is certified to conduct at-home palliative care by the Japanese Society for Pharmaceutical Palliative Care and Sciences

An at-home palliative care certification system launched in December 2022 aims to certify pharmacies that have the functions required for palliative care and to make such pharmacies easier to understand. Under this system, patients requiring palliative care can choose the pharmacy that best suits them and receive high-quality palliative drug therapy. Nihon Chouzai's Koto Pharmacy was certified as of April 1, 2023.

To further improve the quality of at-home healthcare and expand at-home palliative care certification, we are focusing on recruiting and training candidates to become palliative drug therapy pharmacists with expertise in palliative drug treatments. *Currently, six Nihon Chouzai pharmacists are certified as palliative drug therapy pharmacists.

*As of June 30, 2023



A sterile dispensing room installed at Koto Pharmacy

Providing Quality Healthcare

Ability to support to advanced healthcare

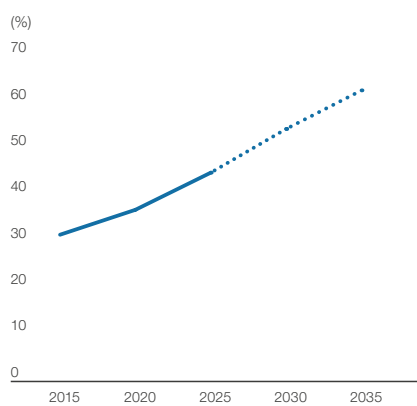
Initiatives Involving Specialty Drugs

Nihon Chouzai defines specialty drugs as high-priced drugs, including drugs used to treat cancer and rare diseases. Specialty drugs are thought to have grown to claim an over 35% share of the total prescription drug market in Japan. The scale of this market is expected to expand going forward.

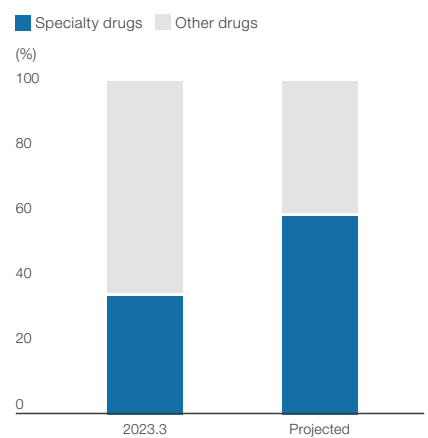
More than 60% of Nihon Chouzai Group pharmacies nationwide are located in front of or on the premises of major hospitals. Moreover, as many of our pharmacists are certified in outpatient oncology and other specialized areas, our pharmacies tend to handle a far greater proportion of anticancer and other specialty drugs than the industry average.

Aiming to capture growing demand for specialty drugs, we have already actively expanded our network of hospital-front and on-site pharmacies at major hospitals, which provide advanced healthcare. Meanwhile, we are moving forward with steps to significantly increase sales of specialty drugs at our other pharmacies.

Specialty drug share of total prescription drug market in Japan (inpatient and outpatient)



Percentage of specialty drugs in Nihon Chouzai Group dispensing fees



Cultivating highly specialized pharmacists

Pharmacist education at Nihon Chouzai is based on a curriculum that is the top of its class in the industry. Taking for granted the need to acquire adequate knowledge and skills related to pharmaceuticals, we see the basic approach to patients as a healthcare provider, the ability to communicate with patients, and the ability to manage pharmacy operations as equally essential skills. Under our robust training system, we are working to cultivate pharmacists of a high caliber.

Pharmacists	3,560	Dispensing Pharmacy Business Pharmacists with in-house certification/Cancer guidance pharmacists 48 Other	Total 129
<small>(As of April 1, 2023)</small>			
Pharmacists with outside certification	62*	Percentage of pharmacies with family pharmacists	85%
<small>(As of April 1, 2023)</small>			
Board-Certified Pharmacist of Ambulatory Cancer Chemotherapy (BPACC)		Pharmacists with "Outside Job Challenge" program experience (staffing in a hospital)	339
<small>(As of April 1, 2023)</small>			
<small>*28% of all BPACC certified pharmacists working in pharmacies are from the Nihon Chouzai Group. This is the highest percentage in the pharmacy sector.</small>			
<small>(until March 2022)</small>			

Hospital Field Education

With the aim of fortifying collaboration between hospitals and pharmacies and improving the professional skills of pharmacists, we have introduced a program of practical training at university hospitals nationwide.

Through this program, pharmacists are exposed to work that they are not normally able to experience, including in dispensing, injection, and formulation rooms and work involving mixed injections, drug information, ward duty, and pharmaceutical affairs. Through the preparation of numerous medicines and infusions for inpatients, program participants acquire hands-on knowledge and skills that they can take back to the pharmacy and use in various situations.

Support Framework with Outside Certification Team

We have established an in-house team to take the lead in supporting the greater acquisition of the pharmacist and specialty pharmacist certification of various academic societies. Amid growing calls for greater pharmacist specialization, including in the area of cooperation with specialized medical institutions, Nihon Chouzai is emphasizing the honing of expertise in cancer treatment in particular. As part of this emphasis, we have formed a team to encourage the acquisition of certification in outpatient oncology, palliative drug therapy, and regional drug care with a specialization in cancer.

Efforts to Achieve Digital Transformation of Healthcare

Initiatives for online healthcare

With the partial deregulation of the online healthcare system in Japan in April 2022, an increasing number of people are turning to online healthcare. Offering NiCOMS, an online pharmacy service we developed in-house, the Nihon Chouzai Group is leading the industry in taking steps to expand the online market. In addition, in FY2022, through tie-ups with

various partners, we began offering end-to-end online healthcare, ranging from online healthcare consultations to online medication guidance and home delivery of drugs. We are taking ongoing steps to expand the pool of patients using these services, seeking to promote the more widespread use of online healthcare.

In-House Developed Okusuri Techo Plus Electronic Medication Notebook

Over 1.4 million subscribers*As of March 31, 2023

The electronic medication notebook *Okusuri Techo Plus* links with Nihon Chouzai's core dispensing system to enable centralized management of medication history. The app is also equipped with various functions that enhance convenience for patients, including a function for sending prescriptions and a calendar function. It also has a personal health record function that offers greater convenience by linking* to data from body composition monitors, blood sugar monitors, and other healthcare devices. In this way, it helps patients manage their daily habits and supports better health.

In addition, by using the app's "connect" function, patients can communicate with the pharmacy. With the addition of a chatbot function for medication consultation, if patients have questions about drugs, such as how to take drugs properly, how to administer a drug to a child, when to take medication, or their physical condition after taking a medication, they can easily consult with the pharmacy.

We were also the first* company to link our electronic medication notebook with Japan's My Number (individual ID) portal, now making it possible to centrally view and manage data on drugs dispensed at multiple medical institutions and pharmacies on the portal.



Users can start a chat by tapping on the "question about medication" link.

They can choose from different options and easily consult with the pharmacy.

Nihon Chouzai Online Pharmacy Service NiCOMS

Supported by all Nihon Chouzai Group pharmacies

The revision of the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Act made remote medication guidance available nationwide in September 2020. In response, Nihon Chouzai developed NiCOMS, an online pharmacy service that allows patients to receive medication guidance at home or elsewhere.

Deregulation of remote medication guidance went into effect in April 2022 and is expected to be given broader scope going forward, such as permission to provide medication guidance remotely for first-time patients.



Common account for Nihon Chouzai online services

Establishment of New Nihon Chouzai Personal Account

We newly established a Nihon Chouzai Account, a personal account shared across online services of Nihon Chouzai, including the *Okusuri Techo Plus* electronic medication notebook and the Nihon Chouzai online pharmacy service NiCOMS.

Patients are now able to use online services provided by Nihon Chouzai with a single account without subscribing separately.



ICT Investment under the Digital Transformation Strategy

Nihon Chouzai develops and operates various ICT tools for healthcare in-house, centered on the dispensing systems used in pharmacy operations.

In the 1990s, we were first in the industry to develop an electronic dispensing system. Yearly upgrades to the system have enabled us to respond quickly to revisions in drug dispensing fees and the shift toward remote healthcare. The system also serves as a platform that can flexibly link with other systems. In 2021, we started an overhaul of the

dispensing system to support the expanded roles expected of pharmacies down the road. In addition to revamping the user interface, we are targeting a system design that will enable a more flexible response to upcoming digital transformation and deregulation in healthcare fields. We are positioning this overhaul as a growth investment with a view to future business development and expansion of the business scale.

Dispensing system (platform)

Voice input system

2005 Assisting medication history input by pharmacists and improving efficiency

Vein biometric authentication system

2011 Ensuring dispensing authenticity
Optimizing business hours

Automation of dispensing work

2019 Supporting pharmacist's dispensing work
-ICT use
-Greater efficiency

**Medication support app
Anshin Fukuyaku-kun**

2020 Preventing medication errors and streamlining medication work at long-term care facilities

JP-Dream management tool for multiple pharmacy operation

2021 Supporting digital management of pharmacy business processes and operational efficiency

Online insurance eligibility verification system

2021 Rollout of online insurance eligibility verification to pharmacies nationwide

Nihon Chouzai Online Pharmacy Service NiCOMS

2020 Launch of Nihon Chouzai's online pharmacy service NiCOMS

Electronic medication notebook Okusuri Techo Plus

2014 Supporting drug safety for patients

Health consultation system

2017 Helping community residents stay healthy


At-home healthcare communication

2012 Supporting and streamlining at-home medical care services by pharmacists


Nihon Chouzai Online Store

2019 Supporting customers' healthcare


Okusuri Techo Plus subscribers
About 1.4 million
 (As of March 31, 2023)
Increased touchpoints through "connect" function



Voice input system



Vein biometric authentication system



Nihon Chouzai Online Store

Automation of dispensing work

While promoting efficiency through automation, we are creating more time for pharmacists to devote to patient-centered work and improving the quality of healthcare services.

- Purpose**
- Shifting pharmacist work to more patient-centered work
 - Improving dispensing quality (including hygiene)
 - Improving patient safety

Name of tool	Drug Stations	ROBO-PICK II	DimeRoll	miniAQUA-zero
Application	Automated drug picking device	Fully automated blister pack feeding device	Powder medication dispensing robot	Liquid medication dispensing machine
Functions/Features	Up to 3,000 items	Up to 1,300 items	Automatic weighing, cleaning	Automatic dispensing, cleaning

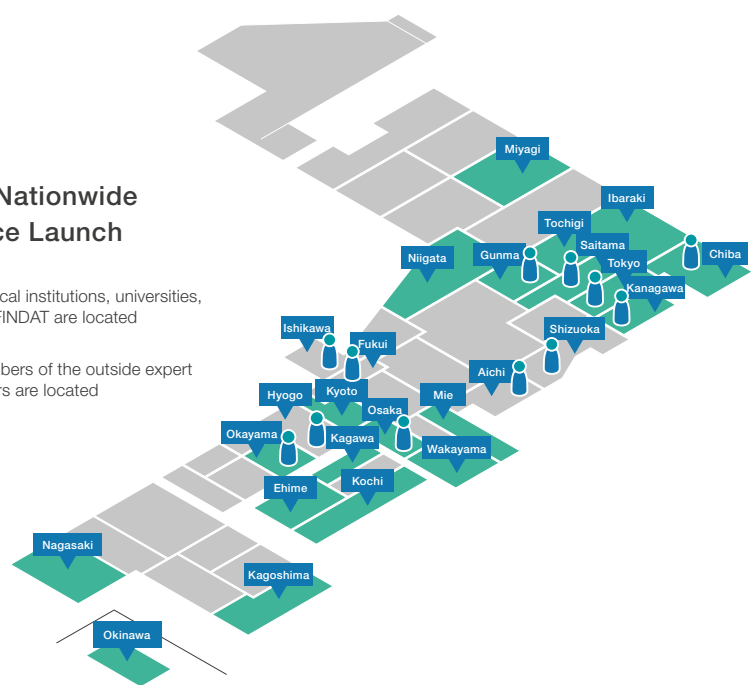
FINDAT business

Accelerating Digital Transformation of Healthcare with the Web-Based FINDAT Platform



FINDAT is a drug information web platform for medical professionals.

FINDAT gathers drug information from an extensive range of data sources in Japan and overseas, such as original articles, drug databases, and regulatory guidelines, processes these data to enhance use at clinical sites, and provides them online.

FINDAT can respond to a wide range of social needs, and it is gaining a solid reputation, making inroads among a growing number of pharmacies that carry out advanced healthcare and at-home care as well as pharmacology educational institutions.



FINDAT Spreads Nationwide Since 2020 Service Launch

-  Prefectures where medical institutions, universities, and pharmacies using FINDAT are located (As of July 1, 2023)
-  Prefectures where members of the outside expert committee and reviewers are located

Demand from Society

- Hospital administrators** Cost reductions, medical safety, strengthening regional collaboration, working style reform for doctors, and other management issues
- Healthcare professionals** Improving efficiency in collecting and evaluating vast amounts of drug information, standardizing work for the shift to task sharing
- Pharmacies** Comprehensive, accurate drug information for advanced healthcare, refill prescriptions and advanced pharmacy management
- Educational institutions** Training the next generation of healthcare professionals



Value Provided by FINDAT

- Managing drugs that have been adopted and creating formularies**
Formularies are recommended lists of homologous drugs prepared and offered by FINDAT. They can be created efficiently by processing data according to the situation of each medical institution or region.
- Comparing efficacy, safety, and cost-effectiveness of homologous drugs**
Comparisons of similar drugs with similar efficacy provided by FINDAT are created using data on the efficacy, safety, and cost-effectiveness of the drugs gathered from a wide range of sources including package inserts, interview forms, original articles, secondary information databases, and various regulatory guidelines. FINDAT compiles these data into a table or other formats to compare and evaluate individual drugs.
- More efficient data gathering when adopting new drugs**
FINDAT gathers information on and evaluates newly approved drugs, tasks that typically place a heavy burden on medical institutions, and compiles these findings into materials that can be easily utilized at clinical sites and distributes them.
- Optimization of drug purchasing costs**
Utilizing the abovementioned materials on drug evaluation in terms of efficacy, safety, and cost-effectiveness provided by FINDAT, customers can narrow down the range of drugs to use and decide whether to adopt a new drug. In this way, FINDAT contributes to the optimization of drug purchasing costs.
- Objective data reviewed and peer-reviewed by outside experts**
Standardized formularies are published after being reviewed and approved by the Formulary Expert Review Committee. New drug evaluations and additional indications are published after being peer-reviewed by outside pharmacists who are active in clinical practice. This ensures the fairness and appropriateness of information.
- Promoting proper medication use and enhancing medical safety**
By providing information on proper medication use as well as the latest drug safety information, FINDAT promotes the proper use of drugs, contributing to enhanced medical safety.



Please tell us how your hospital introduced its own formularies.

At DPC*1 hospitals, comprehensive compensation is determined according to the type of illness or injury and medical treatment involved. The type and volume of drugs used thus have a significant impact on overall earnings for the hospital. For a long time, our hospital wrestled with the issue of the numerous types of drugs used and the large prescription volume of expensive original drugs. We thought that if we could use FINDAT to create and operate hospital formularies, we could expect improvement on these issues.

It seems like you operate formularies in many areas.

We wanted to actively operate formularies for the therapeutic classes likely to be most effective. So, our goal was to draw on the FINDAT platform as we sought to create a therapeutic class for each pharmaceutical affairs council. Currently, we operate hospital formularies for ten therapeutic classes.

Since you started operating these formularies, what has the response been from doctors?

There seemed to be some hesitation before we introduced the formularies, but once the doctors actually started prescribing generic drugs based on the formularies and saw that there was no difference in efficacy, they quickly warmed to the new system. The transition was much smoother than I imagined.

Clear-cut changes in prescription volumes and the balance of drug costs

What kind of changes have you seen in terms of drug costs?

For example, under our formularies, the recommended drugs for PPI/P-CAB*2 are the generic drugs rabeprazole and lansoprazole.

The prescription volume for these recommended drugs increased from about 180 cases per month before we introduced the formularies to about 650 cases per month immediately thereafter. Meanwhile, for drugs under provisional application other than recommended

*1 DPC (Diagnosis Procedure Combination) hospital: DPC indicates a diagnostic group classification method developed in Japan to standardize medical care for inpatients in the acute phase of illness, seeking to improve the quality of such care and make it more transparent. DPC hospitals are subject to a per-diem payment system based on this classification method.

Case Study Interview

Ibaraki Seinan Medical Center Hospital

<https://info.findat.jp/case/07/>

Using FINDAT to create formularies that both realize patient benefits and address needs for reducing drug costs

Ibaraki Seinan Medical Center Hospital introduced FINDAT to efficiently create hospital formularies and started up operation with a short turnaround time. The system seems to have had success in reducing drug costs, a long-standing issue for the hospital. We sat down to speak with President Akihiro Nomura, who promoted the introduction of FINDAT at the hospital with an eye to future hospital administration.

generic drugs—which include original drugs that were prescribed in large numbers until we introduced the formularies—prescription volume was down from about 410 cases per month previously to about nine cases per month immediately after introduction.

Overall prescription volume, including for both recommended generic drugs and drugs under provisional application, rose from about 590 cases per month to about 660 cases per month, but in terms of NHI drug prices, we were able to significantly pare down costs, from roughly 365,000 yen per month to 97,000 yen per month. We see this trend continuing even one year out after introduction of the formularies, giving us a clear sense of the impact of the rollout.

Based on your experience over the past two years, what implications do you think hospital formularies have for hospital administration?

Earnings that hospitals can receive from drugs include drug price margins, generic drug use framework premiums, and medication management guidance fees. Drug price margins were a major contributor to earnings in the past. However, these benefits diminished after Japan raised the consumption tax to 10%. In addition, because DPC hospitals like ours have to keep drug purchasing costs as low as possible, using formularies to carefully select the drugs to be adopted and prescribed is a critical issue.

What are your expectations for FINDAT in terms of gaining more widespread use of formularies in Japan?

Healthcare costs are on the rise across the board in Japan. Meanwhile, as hospital administration becomes more and more challenging, cutting drug costs is an issue all hospitals have to face. That being said, taking any step that might compromise the quality of healthcare would be exactly the wrong order with which to approach this issue. Given that this is the current state of regional healthcare, formularies can be a highly effective tool in holding down drug costs. Moreover, from our experience at the hospital, we feel that FINDAT is very useful in paving the way for the introduction of formularies.

*2 PPI: Proton pump inhibitor. P-CAB: Potassium-competitive acid blocker
Drugs which suppress gastric acid secretion in the stomach and are used to treat gastric ulcers and other symptoms, and relieve pain and heartburn associated with reflux esophagitis.

FINDAT Case Study

Rolling Out FINDAT to 440 Nihon Chouzai Pharmacies

As of April 2023, we had extended the rollout of FINDAT to 440 Nihon Chouzai-operated pharmacies nationwide, mainly university and general hospital-front locations.

Under a system launched in August 2021 that allowed pharmacies to be certified as regional cooperation pharmacies or specialized medical institution cooperation pharmacies, the standard expected of such pharmacies is that they will collaborate with regional medical institutions to provide information on the proper use of drugs and serve as regional drug information platforms.

In April 2021, Nihon Chouzai launched the online drug information platform FINDAT to help give shape to the kind of pharmacies envisioned by the certification scheme—pharmacies that provide higher quality healthcare as a trusted expert in drug treatment for patients. We carried out advanced trials of FINDAT, mainly at certain Nihon Chouzai pharmacies, to verify how pharmacies can best take advantage of the platform. Now, with the extension of the FINDAT platform to so many pharmacies, we are aiming to provide even higher quality healthcare.



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The Meishidaimae Pharmacy in Nagoya used FINDAT to develop an algorithm to evaluate contraindications for antihistamines prescribed to treat allergies. When a new antihistamine prescription comes in, the algorithm confirms whether a patient falls under one of five risk categories: whether the patient 1) drives a car, 2) has angle-closure glaucoma, 3) has prostatic hyperplasia, 4) is pregnant or breast-feeding, or 5) has epilepsy. If the patient drives a car, for example, pharmacists check whether the drug carries a warning for driving through a comparison with similar drugs with similar efficacy^{*1}. If the prescribed drug is not appropriate, pharmacists consult a standard formulary to suggest other safe antihistamines. Pregnant and breastfeeding patients are

^{*1} Comparisons of similar drugs with similar efficacy: A compilation of materials summarizing the information necessary to evaluate homologous drugs from the perspectives of efficacy, safety, and cost-effectiveness.

^{*2} NK1 receptor antagonist antiemetic: A drug that suppresses nausea and vomiting brought about by anticancer drugs by inhibiting stimulation of the vomiting center.

evaluated using the same procedure. However, since there was no safety data for breastfeeding patients for the drug bilastine, the pharmacy contacted the physician who changed the prescription to fexofenadine.

The Meishidaimae location is also certified as a specialized medical institution cooperation pharmacy, and holds regular study sessions to cultivate certified oncology pharmacists. Drawing on FINDAT's standard formulary for the NK1 receptor antagonist antiemetic^{*2} and making a comparison of homologous drugs, the pharmacy carried out positioning for the new drug fosnetupitant and compared it against existing drugs, which was useful for information collection and evaluation of the new drug.