



# A small pharmacy opened in Sapporo, born out of the desire to achieve the true separation of drug prescribing and dispensing services throughout Japan.

At that time, in 1980, less than 5% of drug prescribing and dispensing services were separate in Japan. This small pharmacy in Sapporo set out on a challenging journey, driven by the notion of achieving this separation in every part of the country. In fact, from the beginning, the company included “Japan (Nihon)” in its name precisely because of this strong commitment of its founder.

## Nihon Chouzai’s Founding Philosophy: “Achieving True Separation of Drug Prescribing and Dispensing Services”

The separation of drug prescribing and dispensing services indicates the healthcare system in Japan in which doctors and pharmacists assume a clear division of roles based on their respective areas of expertise, and work together closely as a team to support patient care. This is considered to be the indispensable framework for realizing a healthcare system patients can trust.

Under a founding philosophy of “achieving true separation of drug prescribing and dispensing services,” Nihon Chouzai has grown nationwide as a pioneer in the pursuit of this ideal healthcare system.

Although the formal separation of drug prescribing and dispensing services now exceeds 70% in Japan, and has spread throughout the country, much remains to be done to fully realize the functions originally envisioned for this framework. Although the division of professional roles is an essential aspect supporting the healthcare of people in Japan, this division has not yet been fully realized. The mission of pharmacies in supporting the healthcare system is to become a needed presence for patients, their families, and the community, making meaningful contributions to Japanese healthcare and society. This is the aim Nihon Chouzai is striving toward, and what we mean by “true separation of drug prescribing and dispensing services.”

From the website of the Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, “Progress in the Division of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Care (Trends in Insured Dispensing)” (Japanese only)