

Request to Reduce Overwork of Hospital Staff

Recently, overworking of medical staff has become a serious issue and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare has set up a committee with the aim of improving the working environment. Overtime has increased at our hospital and it has become difficult to take days off. As medical personnel also need to rest, we are taking further measures to reduce the workload of medical personnel. We would like to ask for the understanding and cooperation of all patients and their families in the following matters.

ACTION 1

As a rule, explanations of medical conditions, surgeries, and procedures will be given during regular working hours. (Weekdays 8 : 30-17 : 15)

Until now, we have given priority to the wishes of the families for medical explanations but this is often done in the evening or at night, resulting in chronic overtime. To solve this problem, except in cases of treatment or emergencies, **explanations and consultations from medical staff will be scheduled during regular working hours.**



ACTION 2

On Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, and weeknights, a doctor on duty or on call will take responsibility for your doctor.

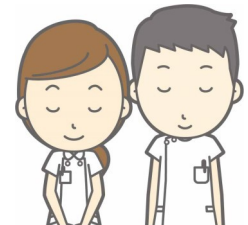


On weekends, holidays, and weeknights, our on-call physicians and nurses will be available. Please be assured that we will provide appropriate medical treatment while keeping in touch with your doctor or primary care physician as necessary.

ACTION 3

Please refrain from visiting temporary outpatient clinics except when necessary, and use emergency room care appropriately.

The emergency room of this hospital is mainly staffed by doctors from the Emergency and Intensive Care Departments and the entire hospital in shifts so specialized examinations are not always possible. If there is any non-emergency change in your medical condition or if you have some concerns, **please visit the hospital during regular consultation hours.** In addition, the emergency room is for serious illnesses that cannot be treated at neighboring hospitals or the emergency center in the prefecture **so, for routine illnesses such as a mild cold, please visit a local clinic.**



We would like to ask for the understanding and support of our patients and their families in order to maintain a high level of medical care at this hospital as well as a healthy working environment for our medical staff.

-University of Tsukuba Hospital Director