

## To all who have passed the National Examination

March 3, 2025

### Procedures for Kangoshi and Kaigofukushishi Who Have Passed the National Examinations To Work as EPA Nurses and EPA Care Workers (For Passers)

Acceptance Support for Foreign Professional Department  
Japan International Corporation of Welfare Services (JICWELS)

Congratulations on passing the 2024 National Examinations for Kangoshi and Kaigofukushishi. We think it must have been difficult to study for the national exam while working hard, but your efforts paid off and you passed with honor. We at JICWELS would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations. We hope that you will graduate as an EPA candidate from this spring and play an even more active role as a Kangoshi and a Kaigofukushishi in Japan. Now, for those of you who are making a new start as a qualified person, we have a request for you upon your continuous work. Please remember once again that the results you have achieved are not only due to your efforts, but also to the guidance, cooperation, and support of everyone at the facility. We would also like to ask you to decide on your future career path after consulting with the people at the facility who have supported your work and studies from the beginning until now.

Please then see the following guidance on future procedures.

The following procedures are required if the EPA candidates, who came to Japan under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), wish to continuously work as an EPA Kangoshi or an EPA Kaigofukushishi after having passed the national examination for Kangoshi or Kaigofukushishi. Those who wish to work as an EPA Kangoshi or an EPA Kaigofukushishi need to confirm and to proceed the following procedures.

#### 1. Registration of National Qualification

Before working as a nurse, it is necessary to apply for the license after having passed the national examination and to be registered in the nurse registry managed by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW).

As for care workers, it is necessary to be registered in the certified care worker registry managed by the Social Welfare Promotion and National Examination Center after having passed the national examination. The procedures for the licensed nurse and the certified care worker are specified below.

##### 1) Application procedures for Nurse's license

Please visit the desk of the public health center that supervises your residential area in order to submit an application for your license with the following necessary documents of [1] through [4] as blow (some public

health centers may not have reception desks, so please check the website of the prefecture at your residency to find out where to submit);

[1] License Application Form: Available at the public health center desk or to download from the following URL for completion.

\*Revenue stamps worth 9,000 yen must be affixed in the space provided as the registration license tax.

[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou\\_iryuu/iryuu/shikakushinsei.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/iryuu/shikakushinsei.html)

[2] Medical Certificate: The prescribed form is attached to the license application form. The certificate must have been issued within one month.

[3] Certificate of residence: The one without description of personal number but with description of nationality etc. Also, must have been issued within the last six months. This certificate can be applied for and obtained at the desk of the municipal government office at your residency.

\*Photocopy is not available.

\*Foreign nationals must prepare the below document that describe nationality, name, the date of birth and sex.

#Short-term visitors: Photocopy of passport or document proving identity.

#Mid-to long-term residents, Special Permanent residents: Photocopy of Certificate of residence.

[4] Applicants only: “Postcard for registered certificate (prescribed postcard for registered certificate)”: Write the recipient address and name on the front, and write your name on the reverse. Submit with clips on the back of the medical certificate.

\*Affix a 85-yen stamp or 385-yen stamps (in case of express mail).

Your license will generally be issued within around three months after completing the procedure.

#### <Inquiries>

- Person in charge of nurses’ licenses of the public health center supervising your residential area or of the public health bureau/department of the prefectural government
- License Registration Section, Examination & License Department, Medical Professions Division, Health Policy Bureau of Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)  
TEL: 03-5253-1111 (Extension: 2577)

## 2) Application Procedures of Care Worker’s Registration Certificate

Please send necessary documents [1] through [3] below to the following address by simple registered mail.

[1] Registration Application Form: Fill in the form enclosed together with your certificate of passing.

\* Revenue stamps worth 9,000 yen must be affixed in the space provided as a registration certificate tax.

[2] Certificate for Acceptance of the Transfer Payment of Registration Fee: Affix the original of the “Certificate for Acceptance of the Transfer Payment” with a seal certifying that 3,320 yen has been paid as the registration fee to the affixing sheet.

[3] Certificate of residence: Must have description of nationality etc. This certificate can be applied for and obtained at the desk of the municipal government office at your residency.

\* Photocopy is not available.

\* Foreign nationals are required to prepare the following documents

Medium- to long-term residents, special permanent residents: Original certificate of residence stating nationality, etc.

Short-term visitors: Photocopy of passport or other identification document

[4] Eligibility (Those who entered Japan before 2023) only:

From the 37th examination (FY2024) onwards, the practical examination was abolished and only a written examination was required.

The EPA candidates who entered Japan before May 2024 must take "Care Process III(介護過程Ⅲ)" before applying for registration as a certified care worker(介護福祉士) and submit a "Certificate of Completion of Care Process III(介護過程Ⅲ修了証明書)" when applying for registration.

Those who have completed Practical Training (実務者研修) do not need to submit a "Certificate of Completion of Care Process III(介護過程Ⅲ修了証明書)" if they submit a "Certificate of Completion of Practical Training(実務者研修修了証明書)" when applying for registration.

In addition, for those who completed the Care Skills Course (介護技術講習) or the Care Process (介護過程) by FY2023 and it has not passed 3 years since those completion, they do not need to submit a "Certificate of Completion of Care Process III(介護過程Ⅲ修了証明書)" if they submit a "Certificate of Completion of Care Skills Course(介護技術講習修了証明書)" or a "Certificate of Completion of Care Process(介護過程修了証明書)" when applying for registration.

It usually takes around one month (one and half month when procedure is concentrated) for issue of Registration Certificate.

#### <Destination and Inquiries>

Registration Division of the Center of Social Welfare Promotion and National Examination Center

Address: SEMPOS building, 1-5-6 Shibuya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan, 150-0002

TEL: 03-3486-7511

## 2. Employment Contract

After acquiring the national license, you will start working as an EPA nurse or EPA care worker, not as a candidate for Kangoshi/Kaigofukushishi. Since it is necessary to reflect the working conditions as a qualified person, please change the contents of the current employment contract or conclude a new employment contract.

In addition, the content of the employment contract must ensure a remuneration equal to or higher than that of Japanese people engaged in similar duties.

## 3. Application for Change of Status of Residence

When working as an EPA nurse or EPA care worker, you must apply for change of status of residence at the regional

immigration office with jurisdiction over your district of residence.

Your status of residence will become “designated activities (EPA nurse or EPA care worker)” after being changed (the status is still “designated activities”, however, the contents specified in the specification sheet will be changed). A maximum of 3 years will be given to the EPA nurse or EPA care worker as a period of residence. Afterwards, renewal will be required before the expiration of the effective term.

Each application procedure of the cases of working at the same hospital / facility as before qualification acquisition and of changing the place of employment after qualification acquisition are as follows.

**(1) Procedures when working in the same hospital/facility as before the qualification acquisition**

Submit the following necessary documents of [1] through [6] to the regional immigration office.

[1] Application for Change of Status of Residence: Available at the regional immigration office desk or to download from the following URL for completion.

[https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/designatedactivities04\\_01.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/designatedactivities04_01.html)

[2] Photo (4 cm in height and 3 cm in width) one copy:

The photo must be a clear frontal shot with no hats or background within three months prior to the application.

Write applicant’s name on the reverse side of the photo before affixing it to the application form.

[3] Passport & Residence Card: Must be shown at the time of application.

[4] Copy of the Employment contract: which is prepared under 2. above, specifying the contents of your activity, its period, your status and compensation, and other necessary information, after qualification acquisition.

[5] Certificate of Taxation (or Tax Exemption) for Resident Tax and Certificate of Tax Payment: which specifies your annual total income and tax payment situation.

\*This certificate can be issued at the municipality office at your residency. If it is not issued from the municipal office due to moving etc., please consult with your nearest regional immigration office.

[6] For nurses: A copy of the Nurse’s License or a copy of the Certificate of the Nurse License Registry

For care workers: A copy of the Certificate of Care Worker Registration

\*When your Certificate of Care Worker Registration is not available at the time of application, you can take your Certificate of Passing the National Examination for Certified Care Workers with you instead.

Later, submit a copy of your Certificate of Care Worker Registration to the regional immigration office after it was issued and available to you.

**(2) Procedures when changing facility (institution) after the qualification acquisition**

You cannot work at any institution other than that designated in the certificate of designation for the status of residence, because the activities designated in the certificate of designation is permitted based on the employment contract exchanged with the designated institution. When changing the institution, it is necessary to apply for a permission to change the status of residence. Please note that you cannot work at new facility(institution) until you receive a permission.

When changing the facility (institution), JICWELS must conduct a requirements examination about the content of

the employment contract against a new accepting facility. After the confirmation of JICWELS, “Result of a requirements examination for acceptance of an EPA nurse or a care worker” which is required when applying for a permission to change the status of residence, is issued to a new accepting facility by JICWELS. You must submit a copy of “Result of a requirements examination for acceptance of an EPA nurse or a care worker” to the regional immigration bureau in your residency together with documents of (1) [1] through [6] when apply for a permission to change the status of residence.

In addition, additional documents may be requested during the screening process after applying for permission to change the status of residence. Please contact JICWELS as early as possible, as you cannot work at new facility (institution) until you receive a permission from Immigration bureau.

Please note that when changing the facility (institution), the former employer must submit a termination report of employment contract to JICWELS, so please ask a person in charge of the former employer to do so.

#### <Report / Inquiries>

Acceptance Support for Foreign Professional Department of JICWELS

Email: [shien-assen@jicwels.jp](mailto:shien-assen@jicwels.jp)

TEL: 03-6206-1138

#### Q & A

##### **Q1. What are the advantages in working as an EPA Nurse / EPA Care Worker after passing the exam?**

**A1.** An EPA Nurse / EPA Care Worker can use JICWELS consultation desk through the phone or the email for free of charge when having concerns or questions in terms of employment, plan for future course or status of residence etc. Also, JICWELS regularly confirms with the facility of the employment situation once a year so that it brings a safe employment to an EPA Nurse/EPA Care Worker. Moreover, there is the training conducted by JICWELS for an EPA Nurse/EPA Care Worker.

##### **Q2. Is it possible to provide services at the residence after acquiring a national qualification?**

**A2.** EPA care workers can be engaged in operations to provide services at the residence after acquiring a national qualification. However, to provide services at the residence, the enterprise place which provides service at the residence must meet certain requirements. Also when an EPA care worker, whose status of residence was allowed for “designated activities (EPA care worker)” before March 31, 2017, engages in operations to provide services at the residence, he/she must apply for change of status of residence at the regional immigration bureau in residency. Please consult with JICWELS beforehand when engaging operations to provide services at the residence, so that JICWELS confirms the requirements of the enterprise place first.

**Besides, an EPA nurse is not allowed to engage in operations to provide services at the residence.**

<p><b>Q3. Is it allowed to bring my family members over to Japan?</b></p>
<p><b>A3.</b> Only the spouse or child (children) supported by an EPA nurse/EPA care worker are allowed to apply for Certificate of Eligibility (在留資格認定証明書) for “designated activities (EPA nurse or EPA care worker family stay activities)”.</p> <p><a href="https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/designatedactivities05.html">https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/designatedactivities05.html</a></p> <p>It is necessary to obtain visa at Japanese Overseas Diplomatic Establishment after being issued Certificate of Eligibility.</p> <p><a href="https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/toko/visa/chouki/visa13.html">https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/toko/visa/chouki/visa13.html</a></p>
<p><b>Q4. Can the family members I bring over work in Japan?</b></p>
<p><b>A4.</b> The family members of an EPA nurse/ EPA care worker cannot work in Japan under the status of residence given to them. However, they are allowed to work for 28 hours maximum per week if they obtained Permission to Engage in Activities other than that Permitted under the Status of Residence previously granted (資格外活動許可) after applying at the regional immigration bureau. Please access the website of the Ministry of Justice for the application procedures.</p> <p><a href="https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/procedures/16-8.html">https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/procedures/16-8.html</a></p>
<p><b>Q5. Can I transfer to another institution after acquiring a national qualification?</b></p>
<p><b>A5.</b> Under EPA programme, it is possible to work at another institution/facility after concluding an employment contract with a new institution, and obtaining permission for change of status of residence from the regional immigration bureau. However, many of accepting institutions / facilities strongly expect EPA nurses/ EPA care workers continuously working for them. There is the consultation desk in JICWELS so you can use it when considering of transferring to another institution.</p>
<p><b>Q6. Do I need to retake OEC (Overseas Employment Certificate) because I am planning my temporary return to the Philippines after I transferred to another institution?</b></p>
<p><b>A6.</b> Yes, it needs to be retaken. JICWELS issues a letter to prove of your transferring under EPA. The letter must be submitted to DMW for procedures. So please contact JICWELS as soon as possible when you have a plan of your temporary return as it takes some time for JICWELS to make the letter.</p> <p>*Filipino overseas workers need an OEC (Overseas Employment Certificate:海外労働許可証) issued by DMW (Department of Migrant Workers:移住労働者省) (Former POEA) to leave the Philippines even if it is a temporary return. Without an OEC, they cannot pass the Philippine Immigration (passport control).</p>
<p><b>Q7. Is it possible to work in Japan again after returning to my country following the acquisition of a national license?</b></p>
<p><b>A7.</b> It is possible to work as an EPA nurse/EPA care worker in Japan after obtaining the status of residence for designated activities again through introduction by JICWELS and the deploying coordination institution. For acquisition of the status of residence for designated activities, the prescribed procedures such as nomination by the home government and conclusion of the employment contract through</p>

JICWELS and the deploying coordination institution are required. Please apply to the deploying coordination institution in your country first.

**\*Regarding the procedures of bring your family members over to Japan, etc., please be sure to check the latest information from the Immigration Bureau or the website of the Overseas Diplomatic Establishment, etc..**

**<Inquiries>** Japan International Corporation of Welfare Services (JICWELS)

- Acceptance Support for Foreign Professional Department

TEL: 03-6206-1138 / Email: shien-assen@jicwels.jp

- Consultation desk

TEL: 0120-115-311 / Email: sodan@jicwels.jp

\*English, Indonesian, Vietnamese and Japanese are available

\*9:15~17:30 Monday to Friday