

To Members of the Press

April 13, 2018

Japan Medical Imaging and Radiological Systems Industries Association

**International Technical Exhibition of Medical Imaging 2018
(ITEM in JRC2018) JIRA Press Conference**

Thank you for taking the time to attend the “International Technical Exhibition of Medical Imaging 2018 (ITEM in JRC2018) JIRA Press Conference” today.

All of us at the Japan Medical Imaging and Radiological Systems Industries Association would like to extend our gratitude. This year’s ITEM JRC2018 is expected to have 167 exhibiting companies (161 the previous year) and an exhibition area of 8,933m² (9,155m² the previous year), and the number of visitors is expected to exceed last year’s number of 22,810.

JIRA is undertaking key activities towards the realization of four visions set forth in the “JIRA Medical Imaging Industry Vision 2020”, namely:

1. To realize medical innovation ahead of the rest of the world in an aging society with a declining birth rate
2. To realize a high quality healthcare environment from prevention, screenings, diagnosis and treatment to the wider area of healthcare
3. To contribute to enhancing the quality of healthcare and expanding the medical device industry by promoting the beneficial use of ICT
4. To make a contribution by providing healthcare and medical systems unique to Japan to the rest of the world

As the business environment and needs of society surrounding the medical imaging industry continue to undergo rapid change, JIRA will promote the following as the basic policies of its fiscal 2018 activities:

- ✓ Contributing to the advancement of the medical imaging industry
- ✓ Contributing to healthcare through the use of ICT technologies
- ✓ Supporting the international expansion of healthcare and medical systems
- ✓ Enhancing fundamental JIRA activities

In addition we will be reporting on the fiscal 2018 medical fee revision today as the latest topic.

“Fiscal 2018 Medical Fee Revision”

This revision is intended to realize a society where people live into their 100’s and has as its basic perspective and specific direction the creation of an integrated community care system, the differentiation/strengthening of healthcare functions, the promotion of collaboration, the realization/enhancement of high quality, safe, reliable, and satisfactory healthcare that can respond to new needs, alleviation of the burden on healthcare professionals, reforming the way people work, and enhancement of the stability and sustainability of systems by enhancing efficiency and optimization.

JIRA has made proposals to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare regarding the appropriate allocation and common use of devices in accordance with the community care concept, promoting the management of radiation exposure as a component of medical safety, increasing the rate of maintenance and inspection, undertaking measures to prevent infection, and initiatives to enhance efficiency and engage in telemedicine through the use of ICT. Of these, the management of radiation exposure is now mandatory as the criteria for facilities to qualify for the newly established diagnostic imaging management premium 3 and the head MRI premium. Further, with regards to radiation therapy, close to half of the proposals related to medical technology assessments were adopted due to cooperation with the Japanese Society for Radiation Oncology (JASTRO).

The following are the main topics related to this revision.

The first of the topics is the new establishment of the “diagnostic imaging management premium 3” (300 points). The criteria for facilities to qualify are that the facility must be an advanced treatment hospital, that the facility must have at least six full-time physicians, that imaging information for all nuclear medicine diagnostics, CTs, and MRIs conducted is managed, that there is a system for interpreting images during nights and holidays, that management prior to diagnostic imaging is conducted for all nuclear medicine diagnostics, CTs, and MRIs excluding nights and holidays, that appropriate radiation exposure management is conducted based on the guidelines stipulated by relevant professional associations, and that when doing so, dosage information for all CT tests conducted in the facility are electronically recorded, and optimization of radiation exposure is conducted upon compiling and managing the information for each patient and each test protocol. The major impact here is that the management of radiation exposure is now mandatory. Facilities must clear items based on the “X-Ray and CT Radiation Exposure Management Guidelines” of the Japan Radiological Society. Similarly, management of radiation exposure is also mandatory for the head MRI premium (100 points).

In this way, the management of radiation exposure will be an important theme to be undertaken primarily by the Japan Radiological Society in conjunction with The Japan Association of Radiological Technologists and JIRA.

In terms of topics in radiation therapy, there is the new establishment of the tele-radiation therapy plan premium, expansion of the diseases eligible for particle beam therapy (in particular, the fact that the indication was expanded to cover prostate cancer will expand treatment options for patients), and the easing of basic hospitalization fee reduction when patients hospitalized at another medical institution receive radiation therapy.

Further, the assessment of fees for telemedicine that was discussed at the future investment meeting was conducted. With the adoption of new technologies such as ICT that are the future of medicine, there is expected to be expanded application going forward in the form of online treatment fees, online medical management fees, online home management fees, remote home monitoring premiums, and remote conferences, etc. that will help to resolve the labor shortage and enhance the quality and efficiency of healthcare.

Going forward, JIRA will continue to actively address these themes.

Finally, JIRA will have a “JIRA Booth” at the far right of the exhibition venue and a “Presentation Booth (Stage)” at the center. The JIRA Booth will feature an exhibit of all JIRA activities, and a representative will be assigned to the booth. We hope that you will take the opportunity to speak with us there. At the Presentation Booth, JIRA member companies will be giving presentations/demonstrations of their latest information and technologies, and we do hope that you will stop by.