

Japan's 2026 Health Economy: Navigating Surging Costs, Strategic Pharmace

Global Health · Answer Key · 3 Questions

1. In Japan's fiscal 2026 budget, what was the record-high allocation for social security-related expenses, reflecting rising medical and nursing care costs due to an aging population?

- A) ¥35.24 trillion
- B) ¥37.80 trillion
- C) ¥39.06 trillion**
- D) ¥41.50 trillion

2. Which critical policy change, enacted in May 2026, aims to ease the financial burden on working-age people by adjusting medical costs related to childbirth and certain prescription drugs?

- A) Implementing a progressive tax on all pharmaceutical imports.
- B) Making childbirth free in principle and increasing out-of-pocket costs for specific over-the-counter-like prescription drugs.**
- C) Eliminating public health insurance coverage for all non-essential medical procedures.
- D) Introducing a universal basic income specifically for families with newborns.

3. What significant trend characterized Japan's medical instrument exports in late 2025 and early 2026, contributing to economic growth, particularly targeting North American and European healthcare systems?

- A) A marginal decrease due to global competition.
- B) A shift towards raw material exports instead of finished products.
- C) A double-digit percentage increase, driven by high-precision exports.**
- D) A stagnation in exports due to domestic demand prioritization.