



Title:	Hepatitis C treatment	Level: higher
Text:	<p>Machiko told us that a friend of hers had received treatment for cancer related to Hepatitis C in the form of a 3-month course of tablets. The result was that the cancer had been cured, which was tremendous news, of course.</p> <p>The cost of the treatment, however, was seven million yen for one course, most of which was covered by the national health insurance scheme. The amount payable by the patient was very small by comparison.</p> <p>Many Hepatitis C cases are related to transfusions of untested blood that happened between the 70's and 90's, so it is easy to understand why the government funds such expensive treatment.</p>	
Discussion:	How should governments decide what treatments health insurance should cover?	
Words and usage:	<p>'cover' or 'be covered by'</p> <p>We use this phrase to say that the cost of something (often, an unforeseen repair or treatment that would otherwise be very expensive) will be paid for by insurance.</p>	
Resources:	<p>https://translate.weblio.jp</p> <p>Oxford Dictionaries. http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com</p> <p>The British Council website. https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org</p>	
Practice idea:	Tell us about any cover you have for unforeseen events, and what percentage of the total cost it provides for.	
Listening link:	<p>Hepatitis C treatment - audio</p> 	
Quiz Me! Conversation card:	<p>Card number C7 below is from pack AG2.1 C7, available at englishbooks.jp, Amazon and Rakuten</p>  <p>Tell us about the worst illness or injury you have had.</p> <p><small>quizme.jp</small></p>	