

“The Industrial Property Rights System in Japan”
Chapter 2. The Patent System and Utility Model System

Industrial applicability

Being “industrially applicable” means that the invention, even if not directly connected to industry, is regarded as capable of contributing to the development of industry through its manufacture or sales.

As this table indicates, patent rights for medical practices, such as surgery and treatment, as well as diagnostic methods, differ in each country.

In Japan, new medical devices and medical products are not regarded as “medical practices”. They are considered as “inventions of products” which are “industrially applicable”, which means they can be patented.