Face-Authentication My Number Card — Japan's PIN-Free ID Card for People Who Cannot Manage PINs, and Its 9,313-Card First-Quarter Uptake

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · Japan

Quality score: 32/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Since Dec 2023 Japanese residents can switch to a My Number card with no PIN, verified by face recognition or visual check, after care homes raised PIN-management worries. It works as a health-insurance card and photo ID but blocks online services; 9,313 were issued by Feb 2024.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	3/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	1/1
Evaluation evidence	0/1
Demonstrated reach	0/1
Documented learning	0/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-22

Digital Agency of Japan & Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications — accessed 2026-11-22

Sayama City — Face-authentication My Number card (scope and limits) — accessed 2026-11-22

MHLW notice of 13 Dec 2023 on the start of applications (PDF) — accessed 2026-11-22

Tokyo Shimbun — 9,313 cards issued (22 Mar 2024) — accessed 2026-11-22

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