

# CARING FOR OUR HEALTH

Ministry of Health Committee of Supply 2024 Initiatives



# ENHANCING PREVENTIVE HEALTH AND AGED CARE



## Updates on Healthier SG

Launched in July 2023, Healthier SG is a major transformation of our healthcare system to strengthen our focus on preventive care. As of February 2024, 765,000 residents have enrolled with a family doctor of their choice and over 1,000 General Practitioners (GPs) are participating in Healthier SG.

### Empowering residents to lead healthier lifestyles

Under Healthier SG, residents will co-develop a personalised Health Plan with their enrolled family doctor, which will be updated based on their health outcomes, care preferences and action plan.

- More specific lifestyle recommendations will be included in the Health Plan over time to support residents in achieving their health goals.
- Healthy 365 app will be progressively enhanced to list a wider range of community-based activities and programmes by Health Promotion Board (HPB), People's Association, Sport Singapore and Active Ageing Centres. The intensity levels of physical activities will also be indicated.

### Supporting GPs in delivering evidence-based and quality care

Care Protocols provide family doctors with evidence-based and concise guidance on clinical management, ensuring delivery of care in a consistent and coordinated manner, regardless of which Healthier SG clinic residents choose.

- Developing additional Care Protocols for chronic conditions under the Chronic Disease Management Programme.
- Providing team-based support for Healthier SG GPs through their Primary Care Networks to increase awareness of screening and preventive medicine and to better manage chronic conditions. These services allow member GPs to have access to multi-disciplinary care team support.





## Enabling seniors to age well

Age Well SG is a national programme, jointly led by the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of National Development (MND) and Ministry of Transport, to help seniors age well in the community.

### Encouraging active ageing

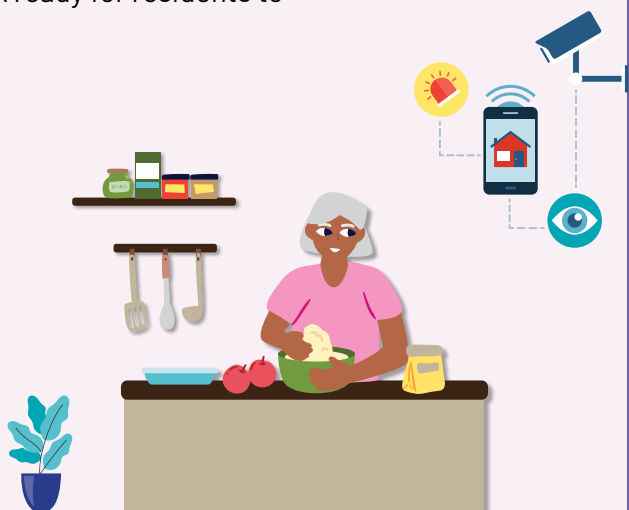
- Expand network of Active Ageing Centres (AACs) from 157 to 220 by 2025, and improve the quality of programmes.
- Encourage seniors to remain meaningfully engaged by volunteering at AACs.

### Strengthening support for seniors with care needs

- The enhanced Home Personal Care (HPC+), piloted at 11 sites, includes a 24/7 technology-enabled monitoring and response element to detect falls and incidents to ensure timely help for seniors.
- Work with MND and the Housing & Development Board to offer more options for seniors to age in the community through the Community Care Apartments (CCA), with the first CCA at Bukit Batok ready for residents to move in by end of 2024.

### Providing seamless delivery of care

- Progressively enhance coordination with care providers to enable a more seamless care journey for seniors and their caregivers from the second half of 2024.





## Strengthening support for the health and well-being of children and families

### Forging healthy habits since young

- Improve access to online interactive resources on good eating habits and balanced meals across schools through Ministry of Education's Student Learning Space.
- Launched Guidelines for Feeding and Eating in Infants and Young Children to support healthcare professionals, parents and caregivers.

### Offering more health and parenting services in the community

- Increase accessibility of antenatal education programmes for couples at community touchpoints.
- Launched the Family Nexus pilot across four sites (Tampines, Choa Chu Kang, Punggol, Sembawang) to enhance the integration of health and social services, and provide one-stop health and parenting services for families.





## Stepping up anti-vaping enforcement and education efforts

MOH will continue working with agencies to step up Whole-of-Government anti-vaping enforcement and education efforts.



- Remind platform owners to improve the detection and removal of sales and advertisements of e-vaporisers online.
- Step up joint operations at the borders to stem the entry of e-vaporisers into Singapore.
- Step up enforcement against the possession and use of e-vaporisers at public places
- Strengthen detection and enforcement efforts against vaping in schools and Institutes of Higher Learning.
- Raise awareness of the harms and illegality of vaping.
- Review penalties for e-vaporisers-related offences under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act to ensure continued strong deterrence against such offences.

# DELIVERING CARE BEYOND HOSPITALS



## Expanding hospital capacity

To support the growing needs of our ageing population, we will continue to expand our hospital capacity by about **4,000 beds**, introduce new healthcare facilities, and grow our polyclinic network.

2024

- Tan Tock Seng Hospital Integrated Care Hub will have about **600 beds** when fully completed.
- Woodlands Health will have up to **700 beds** by end 2025, and **1,000 beds** when fully opened.
- Singapore General Hospital (SGH) Emergency Medicine Building will open in 2024 with about **150 beds**.
- Opening of Khatib Polyclinic by mid-2024.
- Opening of redeveloped Pasir Ris Polyclinic by end-2024.

2026

- Sengkang General Hospital and Outram Community Hospital will increase their capacity by converting some non-clinical spaces into hospital wards from 2026.

2027

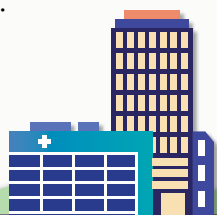
- Opening of SGH Elective Care Centre with **300 beds** by 2027.
- Completion of **5 polyclinics** in Bidadari, Kaki Bukit, Serangoon, Tengah and Yew Tee by 2027.

2028-2030

- Opening of the redeveloped Alexandra Hospital and new Eastern General Hospital Campus.
- Redevelopment of **6 polyclinics** in Bukit Merah, Clementi, Jurong, Outram, Queenstown and Toa Payoh by 2030.
- Completion of **2 polyclinics** in Bishan and Taman Jurong by 2030.

Beyond 2030

- New integrated acute and community hospital in Tengah Town.



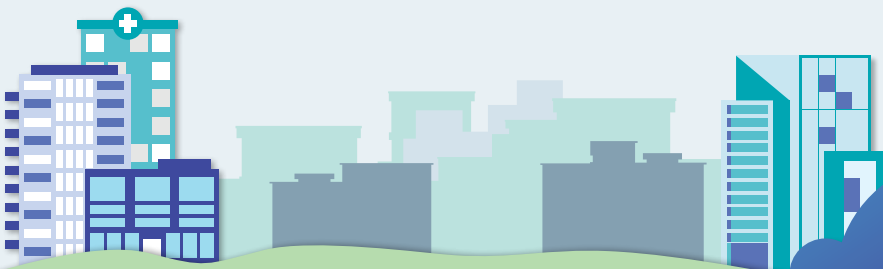


## Expanding Mobile Inpatient Care@Home (MIC@Home)

Since 2022, MOH has been running a sandbox for MIC@Home to offer eligible patients the option to be cared for in their own home instead of a hospital ward.

As of end-2023, more than 2,000 patients have benefited from this service, resulting in more than 9,000 hospital bed days being saved.

- MIC@Home will be offered as part of the public hospitals' services from 1 April 2024.
- MIC@Home patients can benefit from subsidies, MediSave, MediShield Life, and Integrated Shield Plan coverage, no different from an inpatient stay.
- MIC@Home can provide up to 300 virtual beds in 2024 to expand acute bed capacity in the public hospitals.



## Shifting of mental health care delivery into community settings

### Tailoring care based on the Tiered Care Model

Announced in October 2023 as part of the National Mental Health and Well-being Strategy, the Tiered Care Model will guide the delivery of mental health services. Based on the severity of symptoms, appropriate care interventions can be tailored to suit individuals at different care settings.

- A Practice Guide will be developed by end-2024 to guide mental health providers in care delivery according to the Tiered Care Model. It will standardise triaging, referral and care coordination processes across service providers in different tiers to ensure seamless care delivery.

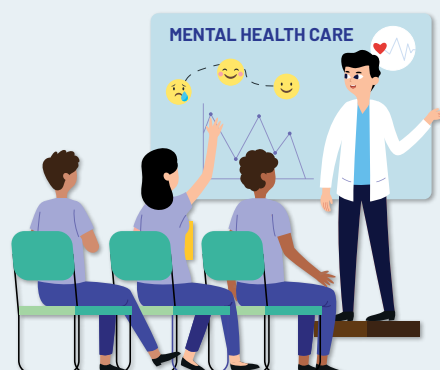
### Expanding capacity of mental health services in primary and community care settings

- Extend mental health services to all 32 polyclinics and all Healthier SG GP clinics by 2030.
- Increase the number of Community Outreach Teams (CREST) and Community Intervention Teams (COMIT), run by social service agencies, from 73 to 90 CREST teams, and from 29 to 50 COMIT teams by 2030.
- Raise awareness of first-stop touchpoints in the community settings as the go-to place for identifying mental health needs and for provision of appropriate services, including information, immediate mental health support, or referrals.

### Enhancing manpower competencies to support community-based care

The National Mental Health Competency Training Framework was introduced to enhance the capabilities of practitioners across the various tiers of care.

- Onboarding courses that include Cognitive Behavioural Therapy training for a range of common mental health conditions will be developed by MOH and the Ministry of Social and Family Development, in collaboration with National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore University of Social Sciences. Starting from 2024, approximately 80 practitioners will be upskilled each year through these courses.





# STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE ASSURANCE

MOH will review our financing schemes to ensure healthcare remains accessible and affordable for all.

## Providing assurance of healthcare affordability

The MediShield Life Council will review the following areas:

- Refresh of MediShield Life claim limits for inpatient and day surgery treatments to cover 9 in 10 subsidised bills.
- Expansion of MediShield Life coverage to more types of outpatient and home-based care.
- Expansion of MediShield Life coverage to Cell, Tissue and Gene Therapy Products.

## Enhancing subsidies at community hospitals

Community hospitals provide sub-acute and rehabilitative care for patients after they are discharged from acute hospitals.

- Expand subsidy coverage to more diagnostic services such as CT scans, in the fourth quarter of 2024, and to drugs supported under the Medication Assistance Fund in the first half of 2025.
- Enhance the community hospital subsidy framework by aligning it to the acute hospital subsidy framework, from the fourth quarter of 2024.





MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
SINGAPORE

March 2024 | All information in this booklet is accurate at the time of printing.

