

REGIONAL PRIMARY CARE DIALOGUE SESSIONS: PRIMARY CARE TRANSFORMATION

About 130 General Practitioners (GPs) participated in the Regional Primary Care Dialogue sessions held across four Saturdays in Oct and Nov 2019. These dialogue sessions were jointly organised by Agency of Integrated Care (AIC) and Ministry of Health (MOH), and hosted by Senior Minister of State (SMS) (Health) Dr Lam Pin Min.

At the Dialogue sessions, GPs were updated on the progress of MOH's primary care initiatives since the last GP Townhall held in 2016 and the instrumental role played by GPs in caring for our population. One such initiative was the launch of the Primary Care Network (PCN) Scheme which brings like-minded GP peers together, where they are provided resourcing and administrative support to provide ancillary services. Since the start of the PCN scheme in Jan 2018, 10 PCNs have been established comprising more than 450 GP clinics. Together, these clinics have managed more than 70,000 chronic patients with better coordination and ability to track their patients' outcomes.

Another new initiative that was shared with GPs at the Dialogue sessions was the enhancements to the Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS) since November 2019, of which CHAS would be extended to all Singaporeans with chronic conditions covered under the Chronic Disease Management Programme. Subsidies for CHAS Blue and Orange cardholders would also be increased. These enhancements will enable more Singaporeans to benefit from more affordable care at CHAS GP clinics and bring us a step closer to achieving our vision to anchor care, including chronic disease management, in the community.

The Regional Primary Care Dialogue sessions comprised of a panel dialogue, where we covered themes on the future state of primary care and enhancing chronic disease management care with GPs. GPs exchanged their views on their vision for primary care, in particular, the need to do more in preventive health management with patients. In this regard, many were supportive of the upcoming initiatives such as the rollout of subsidies for vaccinations under the National Adult Immunisation Schedule (NAIS) / National Childhood Immunisation Schedule (NCIS) as well as for Childhood Developmental Screenings (CDS). They also shared challenges faced in anchoring patients with multiple chronic diseases in the community, due to healthcare costs in the private sector especially drugs as well as difficulties in sharing clinical information with public healthcare institutions.

MOH and AIC would like to take this opportunity to thank the GP partners for their invaluable contributions in our endeavour to enhance, transform and anchor care in primary care. We look forward to your support as we continue to work hand-in-hand to transform primary care together in 2020.



SMS Lam exchanging views with GP partners during a lunch discussion



Sharing of poll results submitted by GP partners in attendance



Panel members from MOH and CFPS



GP learning about Clinic Management System (CMS) at a partner booth