

HIGHLIGHTS

From the Honorary Secretary

Report by Clinical Asst
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Dr Loo is a paediatrician in public service with special interest in sport and exercise medicine. He serves to see the smiles on every child and athlete, and he looks forward to the company of his wife and children at the end of every day.



Survey on informed consent published in *SMJ*

SMA conducted an online survey in August 2024 to gather opinions from doctors on the general principles of consent-taking. The findings have since been published in the September 2025 issue of the *Singapore Medical Journal (SMJ)*.

The survey shows that almost all respondents (96.7%) indicated that they obtained informed consent in their practice. A smaller proportion of GPs (87.6%) indicated that they do so in their practice. Almost all respondents opined that it was important to inform patients of severe but rare risks (97.2%) and material risks (99.3%) during consent-taking. In addition, 80.4% of respondents reported confidence in their ability to determine the material risks necessary to inform patients. A smaller proportion of doctors in training (69.0%) were confident that they could determine the material risks. Results also showed that 80.6% of the respondents included in their consent-taking any additional tests and procedures likely to be performed during the procedure.

The full text of the *SMJ* article can be found at <https://bit.ly/47IF17a>.

Call for regulation of IPs

In a letter to the *Straits Times* Forum, SMA commented on recent questions raised in Parliament relating to the need for regulations of Integrated Shield Plans (IPs).

SMA advocated that well-considered regulatory measures could ensure that insured patients are treated in a fairer way.

The areas that SMA recommended for regulatory considerations include:

- Limiting the turnover of panel specialists.
- Mandatory disclosure of insurer-hospital arrangements, and penalties to policyholders and panel doctors for not using preferred facilities.
- Communication of changes affecting coverage or claims, including adequate notice period.

We encourage Members to read the full Forum letter published on 30 September 2025 at <http://bit.ly/43x4btH>. ♦