

THANK YOU GPs, FOR SUPPORTING CHAS!

BY AGENCY FOR INTEGRATED CARE

To make healthcare affordable and accessible to everyone, the Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS) subsidises medical treatment for lower to middle income Singaporeans at participating General Practitioner (GP) and dental clinics near their homes. More than 850 GP and 550 dental clinics are currently in the scheme, enabling 1.2 million Singaporeans to benefit from CHAS.

Now that Pioneer Generation (PG) cardholders can enjoy greater CHAS subsidies as well, more elderly Singaporeans are encouraged to take charge of their health. Dr Fong Chung Ming of Banyan Clinic says, "I have Pioneer patients who hadn't seen a doctor for the past 10 years! So it's a good thing that the CHAS subsidies have been introduced for the PG card."

Patients are also more willing to go for follow-up consultations, which is particularly important for managing chronic medical conditions. "CHAS serves as an incentive for my budget-conscious patients to have regular reviews of their chronic conditions," Dr Tan Wah San of Pandan Clinic says.

CHAS complements the Chronic Disease Management Programme (CDMP), as patients seeking treatment for chronic conditions can claim CHAS subsidies on top of

using their Medisave through the CDMP. It helps that the Ministry of Health (MOH) is expanding both schemes from 1 June 2015 to cover four more chronic conditions: epilepsy, osteoporosis, psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Dr Lim Yong Chin of Access Medical Bedok South notices that he is also seeing more patients who used to visit polyclinics. "Some patients realised that sometimes it can be much cheaper to see a CHAS-registered GP than a polyclinic or a hospital. It's also more convenient for them to go to a GP that is nearer to their home, and has longer opening hours."

Pioneers and CHAS cardholders pay subsidised prices for services such as diabetic retinal photography in Community Health Centres (CHCs) as well. CHCs provide patients easier access to these services, and lighten the load of GPs like Dr Chua Teo Ngee of Chua Medical Centre.

"Apart from diabetes screenings, I often refer my patients to CHCs for physiotherapy and counselling. I like that the CHCs complement and support my practice, and my patients can enjoy these services at heavily subsidised rates under CHAS," Dr Chua says.



AIC is always here to help GPs in their CHAS journey.

To thank GPs for their valued contributions to CHAS, MOH and the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) organised an exclusive luncheon at Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel. This was the second year this appreciation event took place, and 120 CHAS GPs attended. While the doctors tucked into a sumptuous buffet spread, they learnt the latest updates on medical conditions that CHAS covers.

The doctors were all praise for the event. "It was very well organised — the talks were all very informative and relevant to our practice," said Dr Liao Kian Huat of Geylang Bahru Clinic and Dr Wong Choo Wai of Bedok Day & Night Clinic agreed.

As CHAS's continued success depends on the concerted effort of the primary care community, we hope that more GPs and dental clinics can lend their strength and join the scheme. That way, Singaporeans across the island can have easy access to quality and affordable healthcare.



Sharing the latest CHC developments with doctors



The doctors caught up with the latest developments in CHAS-related conditions.

GP APPRECIATION & CME EVENT

Date: 21 March 2015

Venue: Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel

Continuing Medical Education (CME) talks:

- **“Management of stable stroke in the General Practice setting”** by Professor Ng Peng Soon, Associate Consultant, Department of Neurology (National Neuroscience Institute)
- **“Recognising different types of anxiety and treatment strategies available”** by Adjunct Professor Aaron Ang, Head of Department and Senior Consultant, Department of Psychological Medicine (Tan Tock Seng Hospital)
- **“Rheumatoid arthritis”** by Dr Manjari Lahiri, Senior Consultant, Division of Rheumatology (National University Hospital)
- **“Osteoarthritis”** by Dr Peter Cheung, Consultant, Division of Rheumatology (National University Hospital)

SMS & WIN!

Answer a simple question and you stand to win a 2GB thumbdrive/stylus pen!

Which chronic condition covered as a CME talk at the event is one of the newly added condition to CHAS and CDMP coverage?

Be the first 50 to SMS us to win the pen! SMS your answer to **9125 4665**, together with your name and MCR number by 15 May 2015.

What to Expect When Clinics Sign Up for CHAS

The CHAS team provides a hand-holding experience to each and every clinic, so you are guided every step of the way for a seamless integration of CHAS:

- Comprehensive explanation and assistance in the application process
- On-site training for doctors and clinic assistants on the use of the CHAS portal for submitting claims
- Informative sessions on CHAS updates and related talks
- Support for any CHAS-related query through the CHAS hotline (6632 1199), open during office hours

“ I appreciate that the CHAS team came down to my clinic to brief and coach us on the use of the system. ”

— Dr Fong Chung Ming

“ The CHAS team is very proactive and supportive; they make the amount of admin work I have to do quite minimal. ”

— Dr Lim Yong Chin

Contact us at gp@aic.sg if you would like to sign up as a CHAS clinic, or if you have any further enquiries.