

TCM Development Grant (TCMDG) Frequently Asked Questions

I. General Questions

1. How will TCMDG support TCM sector development?

The TCMDG aims to support both capability and capacity building of the TCM industry. The grant will support sector development on three fronts – individuals, TCM course providers and TCM clinics.

2. What is the period or deadline for applications?

For grant support for individuals, application is open from 1 Aug to 31 Dec each year for payments made for Continuing Professional Education (CPE) courses in that same calendar year, i.e. payments made in 2025 must be submitted by 31 Dec 2025. For grant support for organisations, i.e. TCM course providers and TCM clinics, application is open all year round.

3. Will I be able to claim for courses/events attended/held or facilities/IT enhancements purchased before 2018?

As the TCMDG was launched only in January 2018, courses/events or facilities/IT enhancements that commenced before January 2018 will not be eligible for the grant.

4. How will the funding support be given to me?

As a general rule, support will be on reimbursement basis. Funding will be disbursed after submission of final receipts of payment for all CPE courses (for individuals) and approved items (for TCM course providers and TCM clinics).

However, in view that the full costs of organising a training event or facilities/IT enhancements could be high, smaller organisations (i.e. TCM course providers and TCM clinics) with tighter cashflow can opt to receive part of the funding support before the event or renovation/purchase commencement. They are required to submit their application 3 months in advance, which subject to approval, they will get 70% of the approved amount disbursed to them. The balance of 30% will be reimbursed upon completion and submission of final receipts of payment.

5. Can I seek concurrent funding from different government agencies?

To avoid duplicate funding, cost components of events/programmes/purchases that are already subsidised by other government agencies, e.g. SkillsFuture, Employment and Employability Institute (e2i), Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), Workforce Singapore (WSG), Enterprise Singapore (ESG) etc., will not be funded.

6. Can I make claims on behalf of other people or organisations?

No, individuals or organisations must submit their own claims.

7. Can I submit my applications in Chinese?

To expedite processing, all applications must be completed in English.

II. Grant Support for Individuals

8. What are the current programmes/schemes available to support the professional development and training of TCM practitioners (TCMPs)?

There are currently some pockets of government programmes/schemes available to support the professional development and training of TCMPs, e.g. through SkillsFuture.

9. What are the measures in place to ensure that the programmes supported for funding are effective and relevant to the professional development of TCMPs?

Courses submitted by TCMPs should be accredited by the TCM Practitioners Board (TCMPB) and eligible for, or awarded CPE points. For courses not awarded CPE points, they must be submitted to TCMPB for approval and awarded CPE points (via self-claim) prior to submitting for TCMDG claims to ensure that the courses attended are relevant to professional upskilling for TCMPs.

10. If the CPE course is to be held next year January and I have already made payment for the course in December this year, when should I submit my TCMDG application?

As full payment for the course to be attended has been made this year, individuals are to submit their TCMDG application together with the payment receipt by end of this year (i.e. same calendar year as date of payment e.g. payments made in 2025 must be submitted by 31 Dec 2025).

11. Are CPE category 3B courses (self-directed learning, online education with assessment) provided by accredited course providers eligible for funding support?

CPE 3B courses are eligible for TCMDG funding support as long as their receipts are submitted in the same calendar year as date of purchase.

12. What is the maximum amount I can claim?

In general, 80% of total courses fees will be supported per year. For TCMPs, it is capped at \$200/year. For TCM herbal dispensers and TCM clinic assistants, it is capped at \$100/year.

13. Are herbal dispensers not listed with TCMPB eligible for the grant?

Yes, herbal dispensers are eligible as long as they are working in a TCM clinic or Chinese medical hall setting.

14. Do I need to show proof that I am working in a TCM clinic or Chinese medical hall? (For herbal dispensers and clinic assistants)

Yes, you will have to fill in the relevant section in the online application form.

15. What courses are applicable to me and where can I find them? (For herbal dispensers and clinic assistants)

You may look up the websites of the TCM institutions (e.g. Nanyang Technological University, Singapore College of TCM, Institute of Chinese Medical Studies) or contact the TCMPB-accredited course providers to enquire about the range of courses that they offer. The list of TCMPB-accredited course providers can be found on TCMPB's website (<https://prs.moh.gov.sg/prs/internet/cpe/event/eventSearch.action?hpe=tcn>).

16. If I am concurrently a herbal dispenser and clinic assistant, can I make claims under both categories, i.e. \$100 for herbalist courses and \$100 for clinic assistant courses? (For herbal dispensers and clinic assistants)

No, persons who are concurrently herbal dispenser and clinic assistant may attend courses meant for both herbalists and clinic assistants, but will only be entitled to funding support under one category, i.e. \$100/year.

17. When and how will I be reimbursed?

Claimants can expect to receive their reimbursements in the first quarter of the next calendar year via Interbank transfer. i.e. for claims submitted by 31 Dec 2025, you can expect to receive your reimbursements by the first quarter of 2026, or a later date as MOH may decide in its absolute discretion. Please ensure that the bank account number that you have provided in the online application is accurate.

III. Grant Support for TCM Course Providers

18. What are some common items that are eligible for grant support?

You may refer to the Budget Form on the TCMDG website (<https://www.moh.gov.sg/others/research-grants/tcm-development-grant>) for examples of items eligible for grant support.

19. What is the maximum amount a course provider can claim?

Funding support is limited to 1 event/programme per accredited TCM course provider per year; claims will be supported at 50% of cost incurred, capped at \$50,000.

20. Can I make claims for manpower required to organise training events?

No, manpower expenses are not eligible for claims.

21. Can I claim for services of an events company to help organise a very large-scale international conference (i.e. conference that is conducted in Singapore and open to all local TCMPs and overseas participants)?

Yes, but the amount supported is subject to reasonableness of budget.

22. Can I claim for a closed-door CPE event for invited participants only?

No. The TCMDG funding support aims to support course providers in conducting conferences and workshops that advance the professional development of TCMPs on a broad level. Hence, closed-door or select-group CPE events are not supportable under the TCMDG.

23. If a course provider submits an application at the end of 2025 for an event that will take place in the first quarter of the next year in 2026, is this considered as an application in 2025 or 2026 since course providers are only eligible for the TCMDG support for one event per calendar year?

The date of the actual event will determine which year the TCMDG support is for. In the above example, the event will count as a 2026 TCMDG support for that course provider.

IV. Grant Support for TCM Clinics

24. Does my clinic have to be listed with TCMPB to qualify for the funding support?

Currently, TCM clinics are not licensed and therefore not required to be listed with TCMPB. However, under the Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines for TCMPs, the name of the clinic should be submitted to the Board for approval. Registered TCMPs practicing at the clinic should also update their place of practice with TCMPB.

25. What are some common items that are eligible for grant support?

You may refer to the Budget Form on the TCMDG website <https://www.moh.gov.sg/others/research-grants/tcm-development-grant> for examples of items eligible for grant support.

26. Does MOH have any guidelines or recommendations of common items that clinics might purchase, e.g. software, computers, taps and sinks etc.?

No, clinics or organisations may source for their preferred products, putting in relevant reasons to support the purchase of the item in the application form. MOH will assess the applications on the justifications and reasonableness of the item and budget requested.

27. If I am setting up my clinic from scratch, can I claim for part of the renovation cost associated with the installation of sinks or elderly friendly facilities and for purchase of clinic management software and IT hardware?

Yes, claims for both approved facilities and IT enhancement items will be supported at 50% of cost incurred, capped at \$10,000 and \$25,000 (comprises up to \$20,000 for IT software and \$5,000 for IT hardware) respectively.

28. Can I apply for facilities support now, and make another application for IT support (software and/or hardware) another time?

No, the TCMDG offers a one-time support per company for their TCM clinics. Each company (regardless of the number of clinic branches) is eligible to apply **only once** and subsequent applications for different sections will not be considered.

Facilities Enhancement

29. Which areas of facilities enhancements are supported by TCMDG?

To create greater awareness and highlight the importance of infection control practices and to mitigate any potential risk to public safety, MOH, in consultation with the TCMPB and major TCM associations, had issued a "General Advisory on Good Clinical Practice and Infection Control for TCM Practice (2020)" in March 2020.

To encourage TCMPs to adopt the practices outlined in the advisory, funding support would be provided to help defray installation cost of hand sinks and elbow operated taps. With a large proportion of elderly patients seeking TCM treatment, funding support could be extended to include the installation of grab bars and ramps in washrooms

30. Can I claim for renovation and demolition cost associated with the installation of sinks?

Yes, renovation and demolition cost are covered under facilities enhancement, at 50% of cost incurred, capped at \$10,000.

31. What are the current infection control measures at TCM clinics?

TCMPs are bound by the code of conduct and practice outlined in the Ethical Code and Ethical Guidelines (ECEG) published by the TCMPB. TCMPs are also strongly encouraged to adopt the practices outlined in the "General Advisory on Good Clinical Practice and Infection Control for TCM Practice (2020)".

32. Can the TCMDG be used to cover the cost of machinery, e.g. herb packing machine, to improve productivity of the TCM clinic?

One of the objectives of the TCMDG is to help improve TCM service delivery in the areas of infection control and patient safety, especially among elderly patients. TCM clinics/operators/manufacturers can approach other government funding agencies e.g. Enterprise Singapore (ESG) that provides funding for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to improve productivity and business processes.

33. Can I make claims after renovation works are completed?

Assessment of applications and claims are based on criteria, e.g. whether the claim items and amounts are reasonable and in line with the TCMDG objectives, and applicants may not be awarded the full sum applied for. To avoid any possible misunderstanding due to misaligned expectations, applicants are strongly encouraged to apply and seek approval at least **3 months before** the start of their planned facilities and IT enhancement works.

Claims for retrospective facilities enhancements and IT purchases may be considered on a case-by-case basis. In this situation, applications should be submitted together with proof of purchased items (e.g. photographs, videos) as soon as possible, and purchases should be within the past 1 year.

IT Enhancement

34. The Productivity Solutions Grant (PSG) under Enterprise Singapore (ESG) has pre-approved solutions for Point-of-Sales (POS) systems. How is that different from the support under TCMDG?

The PSG provides support for pre-approved POS systems which are mainly for retail businesses, while the TCMDG provides support for TCM clinics to adopt clinic management systems that are mainly for electronic management of patient medical records, medical inventory, appointment booking etc.

TCMDG can also support modules listed below (non-exhaustive) with the adoption of clinic management systems:

- Software to support data collection and statistical analysis
- Establishment of online portals to publish information and provide online platform for patients' feedback

35. Is there a pre-approved list of clinic management systems?

No, there is no pre-approved list. Clinic owners should source for their preferred vendor/products, putting in relevant reasons to support the purchase of the item in the application form. MOH will assess the applications on the justifications and reasonableness of the item and budget requested. While there are examples of clinic management software providers in the market (MyHealth Technology Solutions Pte Ltd, Bevootech Pte Ltd, and SG iMED Pte Ltd), these are mentioned purely for reference. MOH does not endorse or recommend any specific vendors.

36. Are clinics allowed to make claims for the rental or subscription to a clinic management system?

The TCMDG IT enhancement is to support TCM clinics to embrace IT adoption in its operation and is a one-off grant. Hence, the rental/subscription of software will not be supported because the clinic is not deemed to own the software and the permission to use the software will cease when the rental stops. Besides, rental/subscription fees are deemed to be part of the clinic's operating costs, which the TCMDG does not support.

37. Can I claim for IT enhancement to upgrade my current clinic management system?

Higher priority will be accorded to clinics without any existing IT system in place (i.e. using pen-and-paper medical records). Clinics with existing clinic management software will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, e.g. if the software has been in use for many years/become obsolete for current operations.

38. Can I procure IT/clinic management systems from overseas vendors?

Priority will be given for procurement through local vendors. For overseas vendors, these will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

39. Can I procure software development services from freelancers?

Procurement of services from freelancers will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Past works, track record and reliability of the freelancer providers are some factors that would be taken into consideration.

40. Can I make claims for hardware only?

No, support for IT hardware will only be applicable for TCM clinics that are concurrently seeking support for procurement of clinic management system.

41. Can I make claims after the purchase of software and hardware?

Assessment of applications and claims are based on criteria, e.g. whether the claim items and amounts are reasonable and in line with the TCMDG objectives, and applicants may not be awarded the full sum applied for. To avoid any possible misunderstanding due to misaligned expectations, applicants are strongly encouraged to apply and seek approval at least **3 months before** the start their planned facilities and IT enhancement works.

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