

COS FACTSHEET: BEYOND HOSPITAL TO COMMUNITY

IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY TO CARE AND BUILDING CAPABILITIES FOR THE FUTURE

1. The Ministry of Health (MOH) will continue to strengthen care in the community and bring care closer to home. We will also bring social and healthcare services closer together to better serve Singaporeans.

Strengthening Primary Care

2. Primary care is the foundation of our healthcare system. The primary care sector plays a critical role in enabling MOH's transformative efforts to shift healthcare beyond hospitals into the community and bring person-focused care closer to home.

3. We will continue to build capabilities and increase capacity both within the polyclinics and private sector general practitioners (GPs) to ensure better and more accessible primary care for Singaporeans.

Expanding polyclinic network

4. We will expand our polyclinic network and capacity. In 2012, MOH had announced the building of six new polyclinics by 2020. On top of these, MOH is building another six to eight polyclinics by 2030. This will enlarge our network to 30 to 32 polyclinics by 2030, and give an added boost to primary care. The new polyclinics include:

New polyclinics

- 2 polyclinics (Pioneer, Punggol) completed in 2017
- 4 polyclinics (Bukit Panjang, Eunos, Kallang, Sembawang) to be completed by 2020
- 2 newly announced polyclinics (Nee Soon Central, Tampines North) to be completed by 2023
- 4 to 6 more new polyclinics (exact locations to be finalised) to be completed by 2030

5. We will also continue to re-develop older polyclinics. Recent and ongoing efforts include:

Redeveloped polyclinics

- Redeveloped Bedok polyclinic opened in July 2017
- Redeveloped Ang Mo Kio polyclinic opened in January 2018
- Redeveloped Yishun polyclinic to open in mid-2018

Primary Care Networks

6. The Primary Care Networks (PCN) scheme was introduced to support private GP clinics in organising themselves into networks that offer holistic and team-based care in the community. Under the scheme, patients receive care through a multi-

disciplinary team of doctors, nurses and primary care coordinators, for more effective management of their chronic conditions.

7. 10 PCNs comprising more than 300 GP clinics have come on board the PCN scheme, following an application call held from April to May 2017. MOH has committed a budget of \$45 million per year to support the PCN scheme over the next five years.

Enabling Seniors to Age-in-place and Empowering Self-care

8. MOH is working closely with healthcare providers, voluntary welfare organisations (VWOs), and community care providers to enhance options for seniors to age-in-place. We want to enable seniors to be cared for at home in familiar surroundings and be able to live independently in the community. More aged care facilities will also be built so that more seniors can age within the community, close to their loved ones.

9. By 2020:

- Home care capacity will increase from the current 8,000 places to 10,000 places;
- Day care capacity will increase from the current 5,000 places to 6,200 places; and
- Nursing home beds will be increased from the current 14,900 beds to 17,000 beds.

More assisted living options

10. MOH is working closely with the Ministry of National Development, the Housing and Development Board and the Urban Redevelopment Authority to pilot new forms of assisted living developments, where housing is twinned with care services. Sites for both public and private models are being explored and more details will be announced in due course.

Expanding care support in the community

11. We are growing community care services to better serve the needs of our seniors. The Care Close to Home (C2H) programme, first piloted in 2014, will be expanded to four new sites in 2018 – Beach Road, Chai Chee, Chin Swee and Lengkok Bahru – from the current 11, so that more seniors staying in rental flats can receive care from Senior Activity Centres. The programme has benefitted 2,500 seniors to date.

12. In 2011, MOH launched the Seniors' Mobility and Enabling Fund (SMF) to defray the cost of basic mobility devices for seniors. The scheme has been progressively enhanced over the years, with over 49,000 beneficiaries to date. We will top up another \$100 million over the next five years to benefit more seniors. Currently, home care clients already receive subsidies for consumables such as catheters and milk feeds. To lend more support to end-of-life care, SMF subsidies will be extended to clients on home palliative care services in the coming months. We will continue to review the SMF, to ensure that support is targeted at those who need help.

13. Another \$150 million will be spent over the next five years for subsidised transport services to MOH-funded eldercare and dialysis centres.

14. Since 2011, the Community Silver Trust (CST) has matched around \$500 million in donations raised by more than 80 VWOs. There will be a \$300 million top-up to CST which provides dollar-for-dollar matching for donations to eligible VWOs providing long-term care services. We will also further expand the CST to match donations raised for active ageing programmes.

Building Strong Communities of Care

15. While we empower our seniors to age-in-place, we also want to build a community that can support our seniors within the heartlands and better integrate health and social support services for seniors in the community.

Consolidating oversight of health and social support services

16. The transfer of functions from the Ministry of Social and Family Development will enable better planning for eldercare services in the future, and integrate social and healthcare services for seniors. Senior Cluster Networks which include Senior Activity Centres, Cluster Support, Caring Assistance from Neighbours Carers and other programmes including befriending services will come under MOH. The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) will be designated as the central implementation agency to coordinate aged care services for seniors and their caregivers across both the health and social domains.

Formation of Silver Generation Office

17. The Pioneer Generation Office will be renamed the Silver Generation Office and placed within AIC. The repositioning will better support outreach to all Singaporeans aged 65 years and above. Apart from explaining government policies, Silver Generation Ambassadors will proactively identify seniors who are in need and connect them to active ageing, befriending and aged care services in the community.

Expansion of Community Network for Seniors

18. In 2016, we piloted the Community Network for Seniors (CNS) in Chua Chu Kang, Marine Parade and Tampines as a community-based support system to keep seniors well and help them age in place. CNS will be progressively expanded to achieve nationwide coverage by 2020. Work has already started to initiate the CNS expansion to various other locations such as the East Coast, Ang Mo Kio, Nee Soon, Tanjong Pagar and Jurong areas.

Launch of community-based Pharmaceutical Care Services pilot

19. In the second quarter of this year, a new community-based Pharmaceutical Care Services pilot will be launched to benefit existing home- and centre-based care seniors with chronic diseases. Pharmacists from the community retail pharmacies and polyclinics will visit seniors in Senior Care Centres, C2H services and Integrated Home and Day Care Centres located in Ang Mo Kio, Geylang East, Marsiling and Serangoon

to assist seniors with advice and streamlining of medication and medication management, saving them multiple trips to the doctors.

Strengthening Community Nursing

20. We will strengthen community nursing by piloting geographically-based Regional Health Systems (RHS)-led community nursing teams. To date, we have about 130 community nurses and aim to increase this number to 200 by end 2019, to better care for residents with different needs and across care settings.

Community Mental Health – Dementia

21. To support persons with dementia and their caregivers, we will expand the Dementia Friendly Communities (DFCs). There are currently six DFCs in Yishun, MacPherson, Hong Kah North, Bedok, Queenstown and Fengshan, which have reached out to over 23,000 individuals. We will expand to 15 DFCs in the next three years or so.

22. Mental health and/or dementia services have been rolled out in eight polyclinics, and one in two polyclinics will have mental health and/or dementia services by 2021. Over 140 GP partners have been trained to diagnose and support persons with mental health conditions in the community, supported by allied health-led community intervention teams to assist with the management of persons with mental health conditions. To date, 16 allied health-led community intervention teams have been established to support the GPs, community and grassroots organisations in caring for persons with mental health conditions.