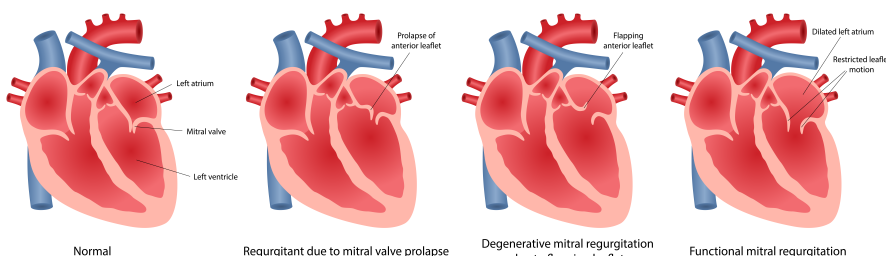


ACEINSIGHTS

Driving better decision-making in healthcare

TRANSCATHETER PROCEDURE IMPROVES ACCESS TO CARE FOR SEVERE MITRAL REGURGITATION

A patient case illustrates how transcatheter mitral valve leaflet repair (TMVLR), is helping eligible patients with severe mitral regurgitation who are unsuitable for surgery.



Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in Singapore¹, accounting for nearly a third of all deaths in 2024. Mitral regurgitation (MR) occurs when the mitral valve does not close properly, causing blood to flow backward into the left atrium and placing additional strain on the heart. It affects up to 10% of Singaporeans aged 75 and above, often leading to breathlessness, fatigue, and reduced quality of life if untreated. However, treatment options have been limited for high-risk patients.

For many patients, particularly elderly individuals with multiple comorbidities, traditional open-heart surgery presents prohibitive risks, creating a significant treatment gap. Transcatheter mitral valve leaflet repair (TMVLR) offers a less invasive alternative. Using TMVLR implant inserted via a catheter through the leg, cardiologists can reduce MR without opening the chest.

Following a health technology assessment conducted by the Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE), the Ministry of Health's Medical Technology Advisory Committee (MTAC) recommended TMVLR in June 2021 for patients with symptomatic, moderate-to-severe MR who are unsuitable for surgery and meet defined clinical criteria. In 2023, several implant models were added to the Implant Subsidy List (ISL), improving affordability for eligible patients. Under the ISL, eligible patients may receive subsidies of up to 80% for the implant, which can cost more than S\$20,000. This is an enhancement from earlier subsidy coverage of 50% subsidy capped at S\$1,000 for the implant.

REAL-WORLD IMPACT: A PATIENT'S JOURNEY

Mr Semba Kutty Pathmadhas had been living with severe MR for over a decade and had previously undergone

coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery. Despite this intervention, he continued experiencing persistent breathlessness that limited his daily activities. In 2022, when his condition worsened, he was referred to the National Heart Centre Singapore. After a review by his multidisciplinary team, Associate Professor Jack Tan Wei Chieh determined that Mr Semba met all eligibility criteria for TMVLR. Mr Semba underwent the procedure with a means-tested subsidy coverage of 80%.

"After the procedure, I am less breathless," Mr Semba shares. "I can exercise at the park and walk with ease. I am grateful for the subsidised TMVLR procedure that has improved my quality of life."

CLINICIAN PERSPECTIVE

A/Prof Tan observes that Singapore's ageing population is contributing to more complex cardiac cases. "The Implant Subsidy List (ISL) definitely benefits patients by providing greater access to these high-cost health technologies," he notes.



Beyond patient benefits, A/Prof Tan adds, "ACE's evidence-based guidance helps us eliminate redundant interventions that do not add value. I believe this approach is crucial for reducing burnout in healthcare delivery."

Including TMVLR on the ISL helps ensure that funding is directed to technologies that provide clinical benefit for appropriately selected patients. This supports better use of healthcare resources and may reduce future hospitalisations and complications for patients who meet the defined criteria.

ACCESS TODAY:

Clinical Criteria for TMVLR Subsidy Eligibility



¹ https://www.ica.gov.sg/docs/default-source/ica/stats/annual-bd-statistics/stats_2024_annual_rbd_report.pdf

ACE NEWS

LATEST TECHNOLOGY GUIDANCES

ACE's Technology Guidances explain funding recommendations made by MOH's Drug Advisory Committee (DAC) and Medical Technology Advisory Committee (MTAC) for evaluated health technologies. They also include the Committee's rationale for the funding recommendations and a summary of key clinical and economic evidence that informed their deliberations.



LATEST CLINICAL GUIDELINES

ACE's Clinical Guidelines (ACGs) provide concise, evidence-based recommendations to inform specific areas of clinical practice and serve as a common starting point nationally for clinical decision-making. Each ACG is developed in collaboration with a multidisciplinary group of local experts representing relevant specialties and practice settings. ACGs are not exhaustive of the subject matter and do not replace clinical judgement.



Scan or click [here](#) to view the latest ACGs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Healthcare professionals can earn 1 CME/CPE point for every ACG read.





SPOTLIGHT

ACE 10TH ANNIVERSARY: MILESTONES FROM ACE'S FIRST DECADE IN ADVANCING APPROPRIATE AND VALUE-BASED CARE

ACE marked its 10th anniversary in 2025, celebrating a decade of supporting Singapore's efforts to deliver care that is clinically appropriate, cost-effective, and focused on patient outcomes. Established by the Ministry of Health in 2015, ACE has grown into Singapore's national agency for health technology assessment (HTA) and evidence-based clinical guidance.

A Decade of Impact

Over the past ten years, ACE has worked with healthcare institutions, clinicians, and policymakers to enable better decisions across the health system. Its evaluations and guidance have supported access to clinically and cost-effective health technologies for more than 955,000 patients and enabled an estimated S\$2 billion in system-wide cost savings. ACE has also provided healthcare professionals with locally relevant, evidence-based clinical guidelines that help reduce unwarranted variation in care and catalysed system-wide adoption of Appropriate and Value-Based Care practices across the public healthcare system.

Looking Forward

Healthcare is evolving rapidly, shaped by emerging technologies, rising costs, and

growing patient expectations. ACE remains committed to conducting rigorous HTA and horizon scanning to identify cost-effective interventions early, providing evidence-based guidance to support funding and clinical decisions, and partnering with healthcare clusters and clinicians to embed these recommendations into everyday practice.

ACE extends its appreciation to healthcare professionals, patients, industry partners, and government agencies for their collaboration over the past decade. Their partnership has been essential in enabling these achievements and will remain critical for the next phase of advancing Appropriate and Value-Based Care in Singapore.

Hear from our leaders and explore our impact story — visit ACE's 10th anniversary website [here](#).



12TH HTASIALINK CONFERENCE 19-22 AUGUST



From 19th to 22nd August 2025, Singapore hosted the 12th HTASiaLink Conference under the theme "Unlocking Value through Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in Asia: Forging Ahead Together", bringing together international HTA leaders, healthcare professionals, academics, and industry partners to share insights on next-generation HTA methods.

Horizon Scanning of Health Technologies

ACE co-hosted a workshop on Horizon Scanning of Health Technologies with the Malaysian Health Technology Assessment Section (MaHTAS) and International HealthTechScan (i-HTS). The session introduced practical methods for identifying promising innovations early, helping healthcare systems, including Singapore's, prepare for treatments likely to affect clinical practice and funding decisions.

Involving Patients in HTA

ACE also partnered with the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) Patient and Citizen Involvement in HTA Interest Group (PCIG), to deliver a pre-conference patient workshop, "Voices to Action – The Value of Involving Patients in HTA". Around 100 participants

HTAI ASIA POLICY FORUM 05-07 NOVEMBER

The annual HTAi Asia Policy Forum, held in Penang, Malaysia, from 5th to 7th November 2025, focused on the theme "Societal Perspective: Why It Should Matter". Delegates from HTA agencies, policymakers, academia, and industry discussed how societal and patient values can be better reflected in health technology assessment.

ACE shared insights from Singapore's Appropriate and Value-Based Care

journey, highlighting the importance of incorporating patient perspectives alongside clinical evidence. These discussions will help shape future guidance, ensuring recommendations are aligned with both healthcare outcomes and patient priorities.

The forum concluded with a multi-stakeholder workshop organised by the HTAi Patient and Citizen Involvement in HTA Interest Group (PCIG) as part of

AVBC CONFERENCE 2025: PRACTICAL INSIGHTS FOR PATIENT-CENTRED CARE 16-17 OCTOBER



Dr Albert Ty, Director (AVBC) [far right], with expert panellists — including healthcare cluster champions — discussed value-based care and technological advancements in medicine.

Singapore's healthcare system is entering a new phase of value-based care, with increasing focus on patient-centred, end-to-end care pathways. The AVBC Conference 2025, themed "Maximising Value for All", brought together international experts and the local healthcare community to explore practical approaches for embedding these principles in daily practice.

Through plenaries, workshops, and panels, participants gained insights into designing care pathways, measuring patient outcomes, and aligning decisions with cost-effective interventions. These discussions aimed to provide clinicians and care teams with frameworks that can be applied within their own institutions.

A highlight of the conference was the abstract competition, which showcased how Singapore's healthcare professionals are translating value-based care principles into practice with measurable results. Winning presentations demonstrated innovative solutions including streamlined care pathways, enhanced patient education, and cost-effective diagnostic strategies.

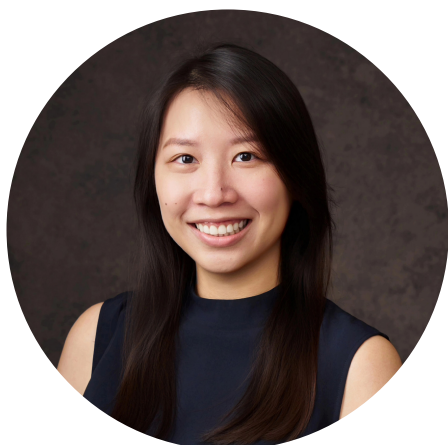
View the highlights, videos and abstracts from the AVBC Conference 2025 [here](#).

from patient organisations, HTA agencies, healthcare and academic institutions, and industry discussed enablers and barriers to meaningful patient involvement in HTA in the Asia Pacific region. The insights gained from this exchange will inform both ACE's and broader regional efforts in advancing patient-centred approaches to healthcare decision-making while establishing valuable connections among participants. Read more about the pre-conference workshop in the "Voices to Impact" publication [here](#).



its ongoing Asia 360 project. Participants explored case studies of patient engagement across Asia, building a living repository of practices that can inform HTA agencies globally. ACE will draw from these lessons to refine its patient involvement approaches in Singapore.

INSIDE ACE: A PEEK INTO WHAT WE DO



Ms Yeo Shih Hui

A Principal Analyst from the Health Technology Adoption and Education Team, develops implementation strategies through data analysis and stakeholder collaboration to drive the adoption of clinically and cost-effective health technologies.

WHAT I DO AT ACE

I analyse utilisation data and clinical practices to craft implementation strategies that promote the adoption of clinically and cost-effective health technologies in public healthcare institutions. This work involves close collaborations with various stakeholders, including the National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, public healthcare institutions, and policymakers.

I also develop and execute training programmes to strengthen HTA capabilities of both ACE and our external partners.

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB!

The most fulfilling part of my job is seeing cost-effective health technologies being widely adopted by clinicians — knowing that behind every uptick in utilisation are patients who can now access the same quality care at a fraction of the cost.

MISCONCEPTION

One common misconception is that we only promote the adoption of lower-cost health technologies. In reality, we rigorously review clinical need, clinical efficacy, safety, and other key aspects before identifying and driving adoption of technologies that truly benefit patients and the healthcare system.



PAST EVENTS

EXCHANGE WITH WELSH VALUE IN HEALTH CENTRE (VIH) & NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE (NICE) 10-13 JUNE

From 10th to 13th June 2025, MOH's Patient Safety and Quality Improvement (now the Value Safety and Performance Division (VSPD)) and ACE participated in a four-day learning exchange in the UK with the Welsh Value in Health Centre (ViH) and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

The delegation was led by Dr Daphne Khoo, then Deputy Director-General of Health (AVBC) and Executive Director (ACE), and included senior leaders Dr Albert Ty, Director (VSPD), Dr Phyllis Kim, Director of the Evidence to Practice (ETP) Division, Dr Soon Swee Sung, Senior Principal Lead Specialist (HTA), Dr Ada Batcagan Abueg, Specialist (HTA), and Mr Johanan Dravium Ponniah, Principal Analyst (ETP).

Discussions focused on implementing Appropriate and Value-Based Care at a system level and improving healthcare delivery and performance monitoring, as well as the use of AI, big data, and digital tools in evidence generation and outcomes tracking. HTA frameworks and methodologies to evaluate health technologies and inform funding decisions were also explored, along with mechanisms for enhancing guideline uptake.

These exchanges provided practical insights on how established systems like ViH and NICE embed value-based approaches into clinical practice, which will inform Singapore's ongoing efforts to strengthen patient-centred, outcomes-driven care.



Learn more about ACE's latest news, guidelines, and impact stories on our social media channels. And when you're there, remember to give us a follow.



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If you would like to receive the newsletter directly in your inbox or if you have any feedback for us, drop us a line at ACE-HTA@moh.gov.sg.