



PRESS STATEMENT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

RETHINKING MADANI MEDICAL SCHEME FOR SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE ENHANCEMENT

1 MARCH 2024

In the ongoing parliamentary discussions and media coverage regarding the Ministry of Health's (MOH) efforts to refine the MADANI Medical Scheme (SPM), the predominant focus appears to be on the financial capacity in sustaining nationwide implementation. However, the MOH encourages a nuanced perspective, urging consideration of the original objectives of the scheme and the broader healthcare enhancement initiatives concurrently undertaken by the ministry.

Launched as a pilot project on 15 June 2023, SPM aimed to ease patient congestion, particularly in Green Zones at Emergency Departments (EDs) within MOH hospitals. Over 1.57 million Malaysians in the B40 category nationwide have received treatment from general practitioners (GPs) under this program until late February 2024, with the government covering all treatment costs. The program, facilitated by PHCorp, a corporatized entity wholly owned by the MOH, has successfully mitigated hospital congestion to a considerable extent.

Nevertheless, it is also crucial not to overlook various initiatives taken by MOH during the SPM implementation period. Most public health clinics (KKs) across Malaysia have enhanced the capacity of existing extended-hour services, operating until 930 pm on weekdays and from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturdays. Six selected KKs also continue to provide additional half-day services on Sundays and public holidays, building on the Special Task Force on Agency Reform (STAR) project. Simultaneously, the MOH has consolidated hospital ED services, strategically mobilizing healthcare staff to bolster ED workforces.

As a result of these multipronged strategies, over 95% of the hospitals have successfully provided medical care to at least 70% of Green Zone patients within two hours, meeting the 100-day key performance indicator set for the Health Minister. While healthcare efficiency in MOH facilities significantly improves, the refinement of the SPM is now deemed necessary to pursue cost-effectiveness. Therefore, starting from 26 February 2024, PHCorp has initiated the SPM refinement, prioritizing specific districts based on the magnitude of patient congestion and ED traffic. PHCorp is also diligently working to ensure a seamless transition, creating awareness among public and registered clinics regarding this matter and settling outstanding claims for patients who have received treatment.

More importantly, the refinement of SPM is not intended to restrict patient access to medical care but rather to ensure judicious resource use, enhancing the project's effectiveness and sustainability. The selection of districts for the SPM implementation will also reflect equitable resource distribution, without marginalizing the semi-rural states including those in the East Coast, Northern, and East Malaysia. Patients with minor ailments outside the selected districts can continue to seek care from KKs and hospital Green Zones, where prolonged waiting times are typically not an issue.

Taking this opportunity, the MOH extends our sincere appreciation to all GPs for their active participation in SPM. Aligned with the Health White Paper's spirit, we are committed to strengthening public-private partnerships in many aspects. As we fine-tune the project, we also value the cooperation and understanding of Malaysians, who recognize the importance of optimal resource utilization in healthcare and support in driving healthcare transformation alongside the MOH.

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MINISTER OF HEALTH

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