

The Internet – Ways to Get Connected

In our bid to get more SMA Members online, here is some information on some of the connectivity packages offered by the major Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Singapore. This chart offers an easy-to-understand cross-comparison of some of the more popular packages available. Hence, Members may choose wisely according to one's needs.

Connection	Packages	Features	One-time Costs	Monthly Charges	Contact	Remarks
Broadband	SCV Max Online	Speed up to 1500K high bandwidth, always connected, no phone line needed, multimedia access, no access charges (unlimited). http://www.scv.com.sg/maxonline	Registration - free Modem - on loan free Installation - \$51.50 Extra connectivity - \$120.45	\$76 first 12 mths; \$96 subsequently	873-7373	Broadband is extremely fast. SCV's installation is more efficient compared to Magix's and Singnet's. Speed is also faster over Magix's and Singnet's. Magix's and Singnet's rates are slightly lower than SCV's if one doesn't surf a lot.
	Magix Premium	Speed up to 512K high bandwidth, fax and phone functions enabled while online, Video-On-Demand services. http://www.magix.com.sg	Registration - \$30 Modem - \$299 Installation - free	\$60 for 20 free hours; \$120 for 60 free hours. Excess: \$0.05 per minute.	1800 438-4338	
	Singnet Broadband	Same as Magix's features. Difference: volume-based over time-based charges. http://www.singnet.com.sg/product/broadband	Registration - \$150 Modem - \$69-89 Installation - \$150	\$55 - 250MB \$75 - 500MB \$115 - 1000MB Excess - \$2.95 per 10MB	1800 838-3899	
Corporate Leased Line	Pacific Internet	Speed from 64K to 256K, 24-hour dedicated link from company's Local Area Network to the Internet. http://www2.pacfusion.com/sg/products/access/corporate/leased	Registration - \$500 Modem - \$1440 Installation - \$70 Router - on loan free	\$988 - 64K \$2088 - 128K \$4088 - 256K Phone charges	872-9800	Advantage: own server in the office, plus dedicated connectivity.
Personal ISDN	Pacific Internet	Speed of up to 128K, dedicated digital line, fax and phone functions enabled while online, call setup 2-4 secs only. http://www2.pacfusion.com/sg/products/access/dialup/isdn	Registration - \$39.95 Modem - \$50-70 Installation - free starter-kit, DIY	\$15.95 - 13hrs \$29.95 - 32hrs \$59.95 - 150hrs Excess: \$3.95 per hour Phone charges	1800 872-1455	Advantage: dedicated (not shared) connectivity; one has entire 128K to oneself.
Dial-up	PacNet, Starhub, Singnet	Speed from 28.8K to 56K depending on modem, email account, personal homepage space. http://www2.pacfusion.com/sg/products/access/dialup/basic/ http://www1.starhub.net.sg/homeprod.html http://www.singnet.com.sg/product/dialup.html	Registration - \$30-40 Modem - \$50-120 Installation - free, DIY	\$2.95 (2hrs) - \$100 (unlimited) Phone charges	872-1455 (Pacnet) 825-7900 (Starhub) 838-3899 (Singnet)	Inexpensive and rather reliable. Not as fast as Broadband or ISDN though. Call setup about 30secs.
Surf for Free	Starhub	Speed from 28.8K to 56K, surf for free, no email account. http://member.mystarhub.com.sg/download/instruction.html download, DIY	Registration - free Modem - \$50-120 Installation - free incurred.	Free; only telephone charges online.	No number; register	Connectivity is not very reliable; but hey, it's free!

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behaving professionally towards patients, colleagues and even patients' relatives.

Secondly, the profession must operate under self-regulation. Where doctors are negligent or have flouted certain rules, disciplinary action must be taken. Cases not amounting to gross negligence or misconduct and might actually require whistle blowing include the unnecessary testing of patients for monetary gains and the issue regarding the shelf-life of older surgeons. These must be dealt with the right amount of discretion and intervention. Ultimately, doctors must always remember that "the practice of medicine is an art, not a trade; a calling,

not a business; a calling in which your heart will be exercised equally with your head."

Thirdly, physicians must work together as a team to strive towards the goal of making our health-care system a world-class one. With greater interaction comes increased friction be it in diagnosis, treatment or just human relations. Doctors must deal with such problems professionally and give due respect to the experience and competence of others. Where doctors are unsure, they should never feel embarrassed to seek advice from fellow colleagues. Additionally, doctors should not be promoted or deemed successful purely on the basis of the number of patients seen or amount

of money that the doctor has earned for the organisation. Rather, other factors like capability, patient-management, skills, etc. should be taken into consideration.

Finally, the profession must continue to waive the professional fees when called to treat their colleagues for this is a highly laudable practice that demarcates this profession from others.

In conclusion, one must recognise that professionalism is a term that defies definition and penetrates into every aspect of a doctor's life. The above-stated situations are just but some aspects. It is not exhaustive. Ultimately, what we have to realise is that for us to have what we call a civilisation, professionalism must be here to stay. ■