

MANAGING PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS WITH THE PHPC SCHEME



By Agency for Integrated Care



Haze in 2015

It is hard to predict when a public health risk may strike. It can be caused by different diseases ranging from mild to very severe. To safeguard the health of the nation and to stay prepared for potential health threats, MOH partners clinics to support them with the Public Health Preparedness Clinics (PHPC) scheme. Introduced in 2015, the scheme enables clinics to provide subsidised treatment and medical supplies during public health emergencies.

One such public health emergency is the severe haze crisis. Thankfully, 2016 passed without incident. Despite such peacetime, much work was undertaken last year to help prepare for any future situations.

For instance, a huge step forward was the launch of electronic online submission. It allows instant claims submission, real-time tracking and speedy processing of claims, streamlining work processes and relieving administrative burdens. GPs will also be reimbursed in a timely manner with this enhancement. Another potential benefit for participating PHPCs include time saved during submission of claims, allowing GPs and clinic staff to focus on other tasks, improving productivity and efficiency at the clinic.

The new PHPC module is up and ready for use on CHAS Online. Participating clinics simply need to log on to the portal to submit haze claims, if the need arises.

Being on board with PHPC

As one of the PHPC clinics, the Yang & Yap Clinic and Surgery advocates educating both their own staff and the public about personal hygiene and vaccinations to protect

themselves and their families. "I believe that the best measure is education," said Dr Theresa Yap.

To sidestep infection, Dr Yap, a general practitioner at the clinic, recommends avoiding visiting those countries with the risk of potential outbreaks. It is advisable for someone developing symptoms after returning from source countries to quarantine themselves until a diagnosis is made.



Mask fitting session with PHPC clinics in 2015

Dr Yap says that the PHPC scheme helped to prepare her clinic for public health threats in many ways. As part of the scheme, her clinic receives training and support, such as a mask-fitting training session in which the clinic took part in. The training session was organised by Agency for Integrated Care (AIC), Ministry of Health (MOH) and Health Promotion Board (HPB) to educate both doctors and staff on the proper fit and use of masks. Says Dr Yap, "Being able to order the right sized mask is important. Otherwise it defeats the purpose of using it."



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— Dr. Theresa Yap, Yang & Yap Clinic and Surgery

JOIN US TODAY!

Recently, AIC took the initiative to thank the PHPCs for keeping the nation safe from public health emergencies. A red inverted umbrella was specially created and given to all 683 PHPC clinics. If you would like to join us and receive this gift, please write to us at gp@aic.sg today.

