## NHG Mobile CHC Increases Access to Care for Chronic Conditions







Located within neighbourhoods, Community Health Centres (CHCs) aim to provide accessible nursing and allied health services for patients referred by general practitioners (GPs) in the community. Patient convenience is now taken a step further with the first mobile CHC by National Healthcare Group (NHG).

The NHG Mobile CHC was launched on 7 February 2015 at Kovan Hub. This launch was held in conjunction with Aljunied Cluster & National Healthcare Group Community Carnival 2015, which was graced by guest-of-honour, Health Minister Mr Gan Kim Yong. As part

of the event, a CME lunch talk for the GPs on the new DRP Screening programme was also held at Paya Lebar Kovan CC.

The NHG Mobile CHC is the latest addition to five other CHCs located in Tampines, Bedok North, Bedok South, Jurong East and Tiong Bahru.

A 24-seater bus retrofitted with medical equipment, the NHG Mobile CHC provides diabetic retinal photography, diabetic foot screening, and nurse counselling services for chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension

and high cholesterol. It allows patients to get screenings done even closer to home, reducing the need for travel to a hospital or polyclinic.

The new initiative extends CHCs' reach by acting as an additional screening option for those who may be physically challenged, such as 73-year-old Madam Sarasvathy d/o Rama Panickar, a diabetic patient who has difficulty travelling long distances alone. "With the Mobile CHC at the Community Club near my home, I can walk to the location for my screening. I feel more independent," she says.

Based in central Singapore, the NHG Mobile CHC will support more than 300 GPs. GPs will be able to refer patients who will be seen on an appointment basis. The Mobile CHC will make monthly stops at 17 different locations including Community Clubs and HDB car parks in various towns such as Bishan, Toa Payoh and Hougang. It will also be available to residents from the

Institute of Mental Health as well as nursing homes and satellites care centres in future. Patients covered by the Community Health Assistance Scheme and Pioneer Generation Package can receive its services at subsidised rates.

Private GPs such as Dr Angela Lim and Dr Wong See Hong have found CHCs highly beneficial in improving patient care. "We are very happy that the NHG Mobile CHC is here to give our patients faster access to diabetic care. This initiative also helps elderly patients regain some independence by attending diabetic screenings themselves," Dr Lim says.

Dr Wong appreciates that the CHC works closely with primary care providers by sending back test results in a timely manner for his review and patient follow-up. "The report turnaround time is also fast and this helps me care for my patients better. I hope to refer more patients for screening in the coming months."

## Locate your nearest CHC today!



<sup>\*</sup>Health Assist & PG cardholders enjoy subsidised rates for services at CHCs