

By Dr Ho Han Kwee



QUICK FACTS on Medisave for Chronic Disease Management Programme

Why have such a programme?

- To enhance the management of chronic diseases and improve health outcomes for patients.
- Medisave is an enabler to assist patients to pay for their chronic outpatient bills, thereby enhancing access for patients to these disease management programmes.

When is it starting?

- Launched on 1 October 2006 focusing on diabetes mellitus.
- From January 2007, hypertension, lipid disorders and stroke will be included.

What effect will it have on my practice?

- Patients with the targeted chronic diseases, namely diabetes, high blood pressure, lipids disorders (for example, high cholesterol) and stroke, will be able to use Medisave to pay for their outpatient treatments.
- Patients will benefit from the structured care programme.
- A variety of options available for claims and data submission for GP clinics.
- Low barrier to entry and start-up cost for clinics to ease participation.
- Audits focused on accurate submission of data while clinical quality improvement focus on helping clinics achieve the best possible outcomes for their patients.

What is the amount claimable and the charges incurred?

- Patients can claim up to \$300 per Medisave account per calendar year for outpatient

treatments of the approved chronic diseases.

- They can use their own Medisave accounts and the accounts of their immediate family members (for example, spouse, child, parent).
- \$30 deductible and 15% co-payment for all claims.

What is the Ministry of Health (MOH) doing to support my practice as a GP?

- MOH, together with the Health Promotion Board (HPB), is developing a patient education folder which will contain a patient record booklet, education materials, details of the Diabetes Disease Management Programme as recommended by MOH and frequently asked questions.
- Healthcare Professionals' Booklet which includes the details as well as frequently asked questions on the scheme for healthcare professionals.
- Doctors' tool kit (January 2007) to support GPs in their patient education efforts.
- Public education efforts in print and broadcast media to encourage compliance and regular follow-up with one physician.
- Decals for clinics on this programme.
- List of participating clinics listed on the HPB website. (<http://www.hpb.gov.sg/chronicdisease/>)

How do I register?

- All clinics are eligible for this programme.
- Application forms (and instructions) can be downloaded from the MOH website at http://www.moh.gov.sg/corp/publications/list.do?id=pub_forms
- Please visit <http://www.moh.gov.sg> for more details. ■