



MORE AFFORDABLE OUTPATIENT SERVICES

More to Benefit from Community Health Assist Scheme (CHAS)

- From 1 Jan 2014, the current qualifying age for CHAS (40 years) will be removed. This will enable all Singaporeans in lower- and middle-income households to benefit from the scheme, which provides Singaporeans access to subsidised medical and dental care at over 870 medical and dental clinics.
- The qualifying income criteria have also been updated to reflect the latest income data. This is already in effect. From 1 Jan 2014, the qualifying property Annual Value criteria will also be updated.
- The changes to CHAS are summarised in Table A1 below.

Table A1: Updated Qualifying Criteria for CHAS

		Before	After
Blue CHAS	Qualifying Age	40 years and above	All ages will qualify
	Qualifying Income	\$900 or less per capita monthly household income Annual Value of \$13,000 or less for households with no income	\$1,100 or less per capita monthly household income Annual Value of \$13,000 or less for households with no income
Orange CHAS	Qualifying Age	40 years and above	All ages will qualify
	Qualifying Income	More than \$900 but \$1,500 or less per capita monthly household income	More than \$1,100 but \$1,800 or less per capita monthly household income Annual Value of more than \$13,000 but \$21,000 or less for households with no income

- More information on CHAS and how to sign up can be found in [<http://www.chas.sg>].

Better Coverage of Chronic Diseases with Medisave use and CHAS

- From 1 Jan 2014, Medisave use will be extended for the outpatient treatment of five more chronic conditions under the Chronic Disease Management Programme (CDMP), bringing the number of chronic conditions under CDMP to 15. The new conditions can be found in Table A2 below.



Table A2: Chronic Diseases under CDMP

Chronic Conditions Currently Covered	Chronic Conditions to be Added from 1 Jan 2014
Diabetes Mellitus	Osteoarthritis
Hypertension	Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia
Lipid Disorders	Anxiety
Stroke	Parkinson's Disease
Asthma	Nephritis/Nephrosis
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	
Major Depression	
Schizophrenia	
Dementia	
Bipolar Disorder	

6. Patients can use up to \$400 per Medisave account per year to pay for outpatient treatments of these conditions at the Specialist Outpatient Clinics (SOCs), polyclinics and Medisave-accredited GP clinics, including CHAS clinics. From 1 Jan 2014, the existing CHAS subsidies of up to \$480 per year will be extended to cover the five new chronic conditions. This will enable patients to reduce the cash payment for the treatment of these conditions.

More Subsidies for Screening Tests

7. From 1 Jan 2014, CHAS cardholders will be able to enjoy subsidies for the recommended screening tests under HPB's Integrated Screening Programme (ISP). CHAS cardholders who go to any CHAS participating GP for their ISP screening will also enjoy subsidies for doctor's consultation charges (up to \$18.50 per visit) for their screening and also for subsequent follow-up consultations up to two times a year. The recommended screening tests under ISP are screening for obesity, diabetes, hypertension, lipid disorders, colorectal cancer and cervical cancer.

8. There is no need for CHAS card holders to sign up to receive these subsidies under the ISP. CHAS card holders will get a letter reminding them to go for their screening tests at the appropriate intervals. To receive the subsidised screening, the card holders will need to bring their CHAS cards to the participating clinic for identification purposes.

9. More information on the ISP can be found [<http://www.hpb.gov.sg/HOPPortal/heal-article/3672>].

Medisave for Newborn Neonatal Screening Tests

10. Parents can use Medisave to pay for screening tests for their newborns during the hospital stay for the delivery. From 1 Jan 2014, parents can also use up to \$400 per Medisave account per year for the recommended screening tests for their newborns even in the outpatient setting. These include hearing test, G6P deficiency screening, metabolic screening and thyroid function tests.



Medisave for Pneumococcal and Influenza Vaccinations for High-risk Groups

11. Influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations have been proven to effectively reduce medical complications and hospitalisations associated with these conditions in certain high-risk groups, such as the very young, the elderly, and persons with chronic medical conditions and those with poor immune function. The definition of these high-risk groups can be found in [Table A3](#).

12. From 1 Jan 2014, persons in these high risk groups can use up to \$400 per Medisave account per year to pay for pneumococcal and influenza vaccinations at all Medisave-accredited institutions.

Table A3: High-risk Groups

Vaccination Schedule	Recommended Groups
<p><u>Influenza</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One dose recommended annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons aged 65 years and older; Children aged 6 months to less than 5 years (i.e. 59 months); Adults and children who have chronic disorders of the lung or heart systems, including asthma; Adults and children who have required regular medical follow-up or hospitalisation during the preceding year due to chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes mellitus), renal, neurologic, liver, or blood disorders, or immunosuppression (including immunosuppression caused by medications or the Human Immunodeficiency Virus); Children and adolescents aged 6 months to 18 years who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy and therefore might be at risk for developing Reye syndrome after influenza infection; Women at all stages of pregnancy; Residents of nursing homes and intermediate and long term care facilities.
<p><u>Pneumococcal (polysaccharide)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One dose of 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) is recommended. One-time revaccination after 5 years is recommended for (i) persons aged 2 – 64, with certain medical conditions¹, (ii) persons aged >65 if they were vaccinated 5 or more years previously and they were <65 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons aged 65 years and above Persons aged 2 – 64 years with the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronic lung disease^a, chronic heart disease^b, chronic renal disease^c, chronic liver disease^d, diabetes mellitus; Cochlear implants; Cerebrospinal fluid leaks; Persons with chronic blood disorders Persons with poor immune status/function^e.

¹ Chronic renal failure or nephrotic syndrome; functional or anatomic asplenia (e.g., sickle cell disease or splenectomy); and for persons with poor immune status/function.



Vaccination Schedule	Recommended Groups
years old at time of first vaccination.	

Explanatory notes for pneumococcal vaccination:

- a Including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), chronic bronchitis and emphysema; and conditions such as bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis, interstitial lung fibrosis, pneumoconiosis and bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD). Children with respiratory conditions caused by aspiration, or a neuromuscular disease (e.g. cerebral palsy) with a risk of aspiration.
- b Including those requiring regular medication and/or follow-up for ischaemic heart disease, congenital heart disease, hypertension with heart complications, and chronic heart failure
- c Including nephrotic syndrome, chronic renal failure and renal transplantation
- d Including biliary atresia, cirrhosis and chronic hepatitis
- e Immunosuppression, due to disease or treatment, including HIV infection at all stages, asplenia or splenic dysfunction, patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression, individuals on or likely to be on systemic steroids for more than a month at a dose equivalent to prednisolone at $\geq 20\text{mg}$ per day (any age), or for children under 20kg, a dose of $\geq 1\text{mg}$ per kg per day.