INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Preparing for an ageing population is more than having more medical facilities to meet growing needs. We are also improving care delivery to ensure better integrated care, linking primary, acute, intermediate and long term care so that patients can achieve seamless care at the most appropriate setting. The focus is on patient-centric care. We strongly encourage "One Family Physician for every Singaporean" so that family doctors can provide personalised primary care for patients over the long term.

With an ageing population, many patients need transition care in a community hospital or a nursing home, and occasional re-admissions to the acute hospital. It is important to have close coordination between acute hospitals and their clinical partners in the community to ensure smooth patient transitions. This will help free up acute beds for patients with more serious conditions and reduce cost for those needing less intensive care in the community. At the same time, we are scaling up our capabilities and adding more beds, clinics, nursing homes and day care centres to provide better care for our ageing population.

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE
Includes preventive healthcare and health education.

Private Sector
More than 2,000 clinics provides 80% of healthcare services

Subsidised Government Polyclinics
18 outpatient clinics provide 20% of healthcare services

HOSPITAL CARE

Subsidised Public Hospitals
7 public hospitals and 8 national speciality centres

Private Hospitals
8 private hospitals

INTERMEDIATE & LONG TERM CARE (ILTC)
Patients requiring continued treatment after being discharged from acute hospitals can choose from residential and community-based care facilities.

This includes community hospitals, nursing homes, inpatient hospices, home nursing and day rehabilitation centres. Close partnerships with stakeholders in the private sector and voluntary welfare organisations is important to ensure continuing good medical care after hospitalisation and choices for all.

NATIONAL ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS
We are working towards a fully integrated electronic healthcare record system to enable patients to move seamlessly across the primary, acute and long term care setting. Our vision is to achieve 'One Singaporean, One Health Record'. Patients will benefit from proper, right-sited disease management and cost savings as we eliminate duplicate tests, and reduce medication errors and adverse drug events that can result in unnecessary healthcare expenses.

Information as of June 2010.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

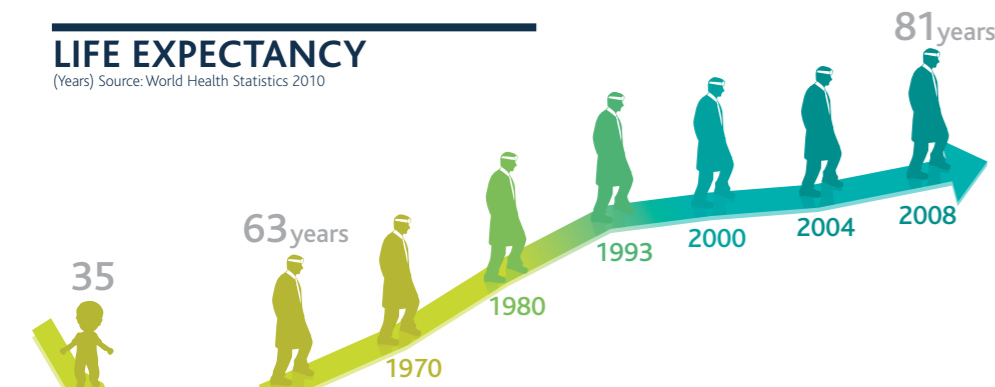# SINGAPORE HEALTHCARE
Building a Healthy Nation

GOOD HEALTH

Singapore's healthcare begins with building a healthy population – to live well, live long and with peace of mind. Our health promotion efforts are aimed at helping Singaporeans of all ages to lead healthier lifestyles. Rising standards of living, high standards of education, good housing, safe water supply and highly skilled healthcare professionals have helped to ensure good health outcomes.

Singaporeans enjoy a high level of health. Our infant mortality, at about 2 deaths in 1,000 infants under 1 year of age, is amongst the lowest in the world. Our life expectancy at birth has over the past 40 years, increased by 15 years from 66 years in 1970 to 81 years today, among the highest in the world. According to the World Health Statistics 2010, Singapore is 9th in the world for highest life expectancy and 2nd in terms of the lowest infant mortality rate. According to a recent Lancet Study, Singapore also has the 16th lowest male and 14th lowest female adult mortality risk in the world in 2010. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has also ranked Singapore as the top overall healthcare system in Asia in 2006 in recognition of our excellent healthcare outcomes while maintaining affordability.
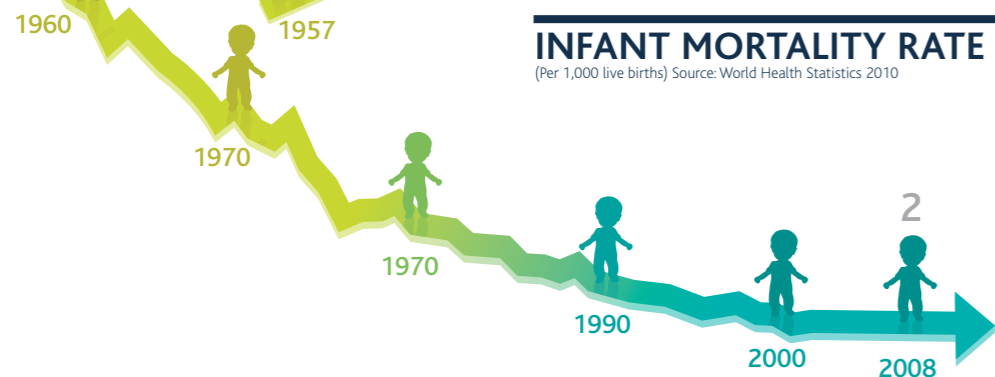
LIFE EXPECTANCY
(Years) Source: World Health Statistics 2010

81 years — 2008
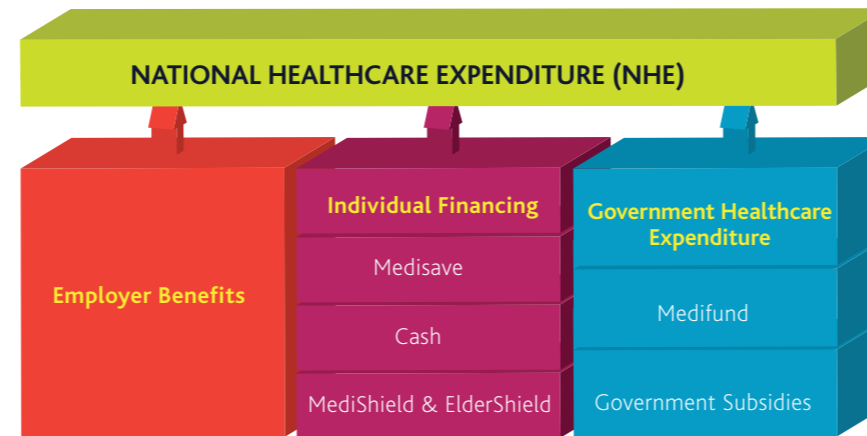2004
2000
1993
63 years
1980
1970
35
1957
1960
1970

INFANT MORTALITY RATE
(Per 1,000 live births) Source: World Health Statistics 2010

1970
1970
1990
2000
2
2008

AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

With heavy government subsidies and 3Ms(Medisave, MediShield and Medifund), Singapore has a multi-layered protection framework to ensure even the low income groups can afford good healthcare. The first level of protection is provided by heavy government subsidies in our acute hospitals and polyclinics, which all Singaporeans can access. Medisave is a compulsory health savings account which helps patients afford their share of medical treatment. MediShield forms the third layer giving Singaporeans basic health coverage against large hospital bills. Medifund acts as the final safety net to help needy Singaporeans who cannot afford their medical bills despite subsidies, insurance or Medisave. Together, our multi-layered protection framework ensures no one is deprived of affordable healthcare.

SINGAPORE'S HEALTH FINANCING STRATEGY

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE EXPENDITURE (NHE)

Employer Benefits

Individual Financing
- Medisave
- Cash
- MediShield & ElderShield

Government Healthcare Expenditure
- Medifund
- Government Subsidies

MEDICAL EXCELLENCE

Singapore's healthcare system is characterised by high standards of care and excellent clinical outcomes. In pursuing medical excellence, we continue to develop capabilities in biomedical sciences research while upholding high ethical standards. The key thrusts include investing in translational and clinical research, emphasising bench-to-bedside discoveries, and grooming a talent pool of clinician scientists. It is our aim to help find cures for diseases and seek better ways to improve clinical care.

SINGAPORE'S MULTIPLE LAYERS OF PROTECTION

Singapore's system offers multiple layers of protection to ensure universal healthcare coverage for all its citizens.

1ST LAYER — Tax-based subsidies
- Government subsidies of up to 80% of the total bill in acute public hospital wards, for all citizens.
- Universal access but no 100% subsidy to avoid over-consumption.

2ND LAYER — Healthcare savings
- Medisave is a compulsory medical savings account for all workers which started in 1984.
- Working Singaporeans and their employers contribute a part of the monthly wages into the account to meet future medical needs.

3RD LAYER — MediShield
- A state-run, low cost, catastrophic health insurance scheme
- Covers large medical bills arising from major or prolonged illnesses
- For additional coverage, patients can purchase private integrated Shield Plans on top of MediShield

ElderShield
- A severe disability insurance scheme for those who need long-term care, especially during old age.

4TH LAYER — Safety net for the needy
- Medifund, an endowment fund set up by Government.
- Further subsidises medical bills of needy Singaporean patients who cannot afford to pay their medical bills despite heavy subsidies, Medisave and MediShield.
- The approval rate of Medifund applications is 99%

PROMOTING COMPETITION AND TRANSPARENCY

The Ministry of Health publishes hospital bill sizes and health outcomes on its website to encourage hospitals to "do more with less" and to help patients make informed choices.