

# 3Ms

YOUR SAFETY NET FOR HEALTH  
 • MEDISAVE  
 • MEDISHIELD  
 • MEDIFUND

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# MAKING \$ENSE OF HEALTHCARE

**M**OST of us will worry if we are hospitalised for a medical procedure. Besides the concern for our health, we may also worry about our hospital bill.

Will we be able to afford it?

Fortunately, with heavy Government subsidies and the comprehensive 3Ms framework of Medisave, MediShield and Medifund, healthcare is affordable in Singapore.

These measures help ensure that no one is denied access to healthcare. Here's how you can benefit from them.

YOUR HOSPITAL BILL	
	Amount (\$)
Total charges	
<b>LESS:</b> Government subsidies	
Net amount patient has to pay	
<b>LESS:</b> Amount claimable from MediShield	
<b>LESS:</b> Amount that can be paid with Medisave	
Cash amount patient pays	

## 1. HEALTHCARE SUBSIDIES

Singaporeans enjoy heavy subsidies in public hospitals, especially in Class B2 and C wards. This means that a huge part of your hospital bill is already paid for the moment you are admitted into a hospital.

Under the proposed means testing framework, the majority of Class B2 and C patients will continue to enjoy the current subsidy of 80 per cent in Class C wards and 65 per cent in Class B2 wards.

Means testing will only affect a minority of higher income earners who choose Class B2 or C wards, but even they will continue to be heavily subsidised, by at least 50 per cent, and the fees will remain affordable for all.

No matter what your income level is, you can be assured that you will have the freedom to choose the ward you prefer.

Means testing will help focus subsidies on the lower-income group as we continue to improve our subsidised healthcare services.

How can we play a part in keeping our hospital bills affordable?

Simple. Choose your ward carefully. If you can only afford Class B2, don't go for a higher class ward. The standard of care is the same in all the wards, whether it's Class C or Class A. Rest assured you will get the high quality of medical care you deserve.

**\$1.5 billion was given out in direct patient subsidies in 2006 and this is expected to exceed \$2 billion per year by 2012.**

## 2. MEDISAVE

While means testing ensures that subsidies reach those who need them most, Medisave makes our subsidised bills more affordable.

As working adults, about 6.5 to 9 per cent of our monthly salary automatically goes into Medisave, helping us to pay for our medical bills.

On average, each Singaporean has around \$13,600 in his Medisave account and this is enough for 13 episodes of hospitalisation in a Class C ward. These savings help greatly in paying for our hospital bills and reducing out-of-pocket payment.

Therefore, it is important to have a healthy Medisave balance even if you are self-employed.

Small regular contributions will help to grow your Medisave account and you can dip into it when the need arises.

**80 per cent of inpatients use Medisave to pay for their hospitalisation. Medisave can also be used to pay for day surgery and approved outpatient treatment, such as renal dialysis, diabetes and stroke.**

## 3. MEDISHIELD

With heavy subsidies and Medisave, a big portion of our hospital bills will be covered. But what if we incur large bills because of major illnesses? What if we are unable to pay for them despite subsidies and Medisave?

This is why we should be protected with MediShield, a medical insurance scheme which covers 60 per cent of large bills for Class B2 and C wards.

If you wish to stay in higher ward classes, a supplementary plan that offers enhanced medical coverage will suit your needs better.

In choosing which plan to buy, you need to consider whether you can afford the premiums over a long period, choice of hospital wards and type of coverage.

You won't know how badly you may be hit when illness strikes. A good insurance scheme will give you adequate medical coverage for the ward class you have chosen.

## 4. MEDIFUND

For most of us, Medisave and MediShield offer ample coverage and make our hospital bills very affordable. But there may be some who are still unable to pay their hospital bills despite Medisave and MediShield.

Don't worry if you face such difficulties. Medifund, a financial safety net, can help you with your hospital bills. You can apply for Medifund through a medical social worker at our public hospitals. Last year, about 98 per cent of Medifund applications were successful.

Medifund lends a helping hand to needy Singaporeans and takes away the worry of hospital bills. Together with subsidies, Medisave and MediShield, no one will be deprived of affordable healthcare.

**In 2006, the Government gave \$40.7 million in Medifund grants to hospitals and voluntary welfare organisations to help needy patients. Last year, \$200 million was pumped into the fund, bringing it up to a total of \$1.5 billion.**

**About 75 per cent of Singaporeans are covered by MediShield or Medisave-approved private integrated plans. In 2006, \$116 million in claims was paid out from MediShield.**