

PARTNERS DIRECT AUG 08

The Singapore Disease Management Conference 2008 – A Success!

With an impressive attendance of over 750 guests coming from 27 countries all over the world, the 5th Singapore Disease Management Conference, with the theme **“Think Global Do Local”**, truly provided much insights, sharing and networking among our colleagues in the healthcare sector all over the world.

In his opening address, Guest-of-Honour, Minister for Health, Mr Khaw Boon Wan started off by expressing his sympathy and understanding for some GPs who have had to go into aesthetic procedures to satisfy some of their patients and to cover the operating cost of their practice. He emphasised that polyclinics and GPs are “partners in health, on the same side of the battlefield” and that polyclinics have neither the intent nor is it in their interest to enlarge their market share.

Minister Khaw then listed several initiatives that have already been put into place by the Ministry. To engage GPs, NHG hospital specialists are now actively referring patients back to their family GPs for heart disease, asthma and mental illness. Secondly, hospitals and polyclinics are actively piloting disease management programmes and sharing them with GPs. For example, the National Healthcare Group and the Singapore Health Services have successfully piloted a National DOT (Delivering on Target) programme for Diabetes which will work hand-in-hand with all the public hospitals and participating GPs island-wide to provide better long-term care for diabetes patients. In time, more national programmes will be established to accredit, train and work with GPs to provide continuous care for patients discharged from hospitals.

To encourage patients to consult their GPs, the Ministry of Health is now allowing Medisave to be used for outpatient treatment of six key chronic diseases at participating GP clinics.

Within the conference, the plenary given by Dr Shigeru Omi, Regional Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the Western Pacific, on “People-Centred Health Care: Health for All by All” also highlighted this point of working together. In his plenary lecture, he mentioned that a model in which the patient’s role in management is emphasised; follow up is continuous; community services are harnessed; and prevention measures are adequately utilised; is crucial in achieving the global goal of two per cent annual reduction in mortality from chronic diseases by 2015.

In conclusion, the conference was an overall success and everyone benefited from the knowledge that, only by working together will the healthcare sector grow to be a more efficient and sufficient one, for patients and providers alike.



QuickPeek

1. THE SINGAPORE DISEASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2008 – A SUCCESS!

- 2. UPDATE**
- NHG ASC 2008 GP Symposium

- 3. FROM THE MEDICAL CHAIR**
- General Practice & the National University Health System

- 4-7. WHAT'S NEW**
- University Spine Centre
 - Cancers of the Oral Cavity
 - Helping Arthritis Sufferers

8. WORLD DISEASE DAY FOCUS

- World Alzheimer's Day (21 September 2008)

9-11. SPECIALIST FOCUS

- Relationship between Cholesterol and CHD
- Sudden Cardiac Death

12-13. CALENDAR

14-15. LIFELINE

- Management of Spondylolisthesis in the Young

16. PHARMACY NEWS

- Drug-Herb Interactions with Medications for the Heart