



MEDIA RELEASE

MAAEDICARE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION AND NATIONAL CANCER SOCIETY MALAYSIA INK MOU TO ENABLE HEART SCREENING FOR CANCER PATIENTS

Partnership paves way for considerable high-quality heart screening for pre-chemotherapy patients

KUALA LUMPUR - 14 APRIL, 2022: Two medical non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the country - the **Maaedicare Charitable Foundation (Foundation)** and the **National Cancer Society Malaysia (NCSM)** - inked a breakthrough partnership to deliver affordable cardiac screenings to cancer patients.

The Foundation which operates the **Maaedicare Cardiac Diagnostic Centre** will provide procedures such as Electrocardiography, Echocardiography ("Echo"), Exercise Stress Test, Holter monitoring, Calcium Scoring, CT Coronary Angiogram, Coronary Angiogram, and Coronary Angioplasty, as well as radiological procedures such as X-ray and CT-scan.

Through the collaboration, the Foundation's Cardiac Diagnostic Centre will offer high-end but inexpensive screenings to patients from NCSM. Aside from the affordability, the partnership will swiftly shorten the wait time for cancer patients for such screenings, at government and private hospitals.

Maaedicare Charitable Foundation Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Haji Azriman Rosman said the Foundation viewed this alliance a breakthrough for the ever-evolving healthcare industry and specifically for cancer patients, as there was a need for more aggressive and better coordinated cardio-oncology care.

"Cancer patients should be aware of the risk of cardiovascular diseases and the need for before, during and after cardiac screenings, that coincide with their cancer therapies," he said, adding the Foundation would advocate for a proactive approach for cardio-oncology care to improve the quality of care for these patients.

"As a medical NGO that already provides dialysis and cardiac patient subsidies, the Foundation is happy to assist cancer patients with the same. The affordable cost of screenings, will positively lessen the financial burden for the patients," he said.

Maaedicare Cardiac Diagnostic Centre Head, Dr. Nik Mohd Adzrul Ariff bin Raja Azlan said cancer patients and survivors are found to have a greater risk of mortality due to cardiovascular disease, hence early cardiac screening is important.

“The European Society of Cardiology (ESC) in 2019 reported that one out of ten cancer patients die from complications of cardiovascular diseases. ESC also reports that amongst cancer survivors below the age of 55, the risk of cardiovascular death was ten-fold greater than in the general population, thus early cardiac diagnostics are important.

“In fact, for some cancers, like breast, prostate, endometrial, and thyroid cancer, around half will die from cardiovascular disease (CVD),” he said, adding that the partnership will be advantageous to both NGOs as they address pertinent challenges faced by cancer patients.

This partnership is especially apt and timely in line with this year’s global slogan of ‘Closing the Cancer Care Gap,” said **Managing Director of National Cancer Society Malaysia, Dr Murallitharan M.**

“There have been many challenges to our national healthcare system due to the pandemic, especially in terms of cancer care with delays in caring for patients and ever rising numbers of new patients. Through this partnership, we are making available a new, affordable and cost-effective option for all patients, especially those who are being treated within the public sector, to quickly get the diagnostic services needed in terms of both their cancer and cardiovascular care.

“This, we hope, will help contribute towards reducing waiting times and ‘over congestion’ within government hospitals while also helping patients to be treated in a timely manner,” he said.

The MoU was signed by **Dr. Haji Azriman Rosman, Chief Executive Officer of Maaedicare Charitable Foundation** and **Dr. Murallitharan M., Managing Director of National Cancer Society Malaysia**, witnessed by Dr. Nik Mohd Adzrul Ariff, Head of Cardiac Diagnostic Centre and Dr. Dalilah Kamaruddin, Manager of Cancer & Health Screening Clinic.

For more information on Maaedicare Charitable Foundation, visit <https://www.maaedicare.org>

For further information on NCSM, visit <https://cancer.org.my>

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About Maaedicare Charitable Foundation

*The **MAA Medicare Kidney Charity Fund** was initiated in 1994 and rebranded to **MAA Medicare Charitable Foundation (The Foundation)** in 2014. Since 2022, MAA Medicare Charitable Foundation is known as **Maaedicare Charitable Foundation** or **Yayasan Amal Maaedicare (YAM)**.*

*The Foundation is the 2nd largest non-profit dialysis provider in Malaysia that offers highly subsidised treatments at its 11 dialysis centres in the country. In September 2018, the Foundation set up Malaysia's first heart charity centre – the **Maaedicare Cardiac Diagnostic Centre** in Jalan Ipoh. The cardiac centre provides quality care, and comprehensive cardiac and vascular services and consultations, with subsidies.*

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About National Cancer Society of Malaysia / Persatuan Kebangsaan Kanser Malaysia (NCSM)

*The **National Cancer Society Malaysia (NCSM)** is the first not-for-profit cancer organisation in Malaysia that provides education, care and support services for people affected by cancer.*

Over the last 50 years, it provides holistic cancer support to patients and caregivers. NCSM supports patients in understanding and dealing with cancer in various phases through its five cancer centres – the Cancer and Health Screening Clinic, Nuclear Medicine Centre, Resource and Wellness Centre, Quit Smoking Clinic and the Children's Home of Hope.

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