

Newsletter

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Virtual Consultations and e-MCs via Medical Apps

Doctor Anywhere, a virtual consultation mobile application, launched earlier this month. Virtual consultation apps enable patients to have virtual consultations with doctors via video calls, and allow doctors to prescribe medication, refer patients to specialists and issue Medical Certificates ("MC"). In particular, medical professionals note that such virtual consultations are suitable for straightforward ailments, such as headaches, diarrhea and skin rashes.

Doctor Anywhere is part of a growing trend towards telemedicine. Another similar app, MyDoc, allows users to chat with Guardian pharmacists and enquire whether medications are stocked in certain stores. The national technology agency for healthcare, Integrated Health Information Systems, also launched a national video consultation platform for healthcare services in April, which allows multi-party video conferencing, file sharing and viewing of medical reports.

Advocates say that telemedicine works especially well in Singapore because:

- (1) Telemedicine is convenient and allows users to save time and cost of travelling;
- (2) Land is scarce and medical facilities are oversubscribed;
- (3) Singapore has an ageing population, and the elderly or disabled may not be able to easily access healthcare; and
- (4) Telemedicine facilitates outpatient care, allowing doctors to obtain accurate medical information.

However, telemedicine currently faces a few limitations. For example, medical professionals are quick to add that physical examination of the patient remains a necessary part of the consultation process. Furthermore, e-MCs have yet to be accepted by all companies.

For more information, you can read the full article [here](#).

Singapore Ranked First for Progress in Health-related UN Goals

On 12 September 2017, prestigious medical journal, The Lancet published a Performance on Sustainable Development Goal Index, which ranked Singapore first for progress made in achieving a set of UN's sustainable development goals. The UN goal is to reduce premature deaths from such diseases by a third by 2030. In particular, they hope to target cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

In order to project how close countries would get to the UN goals by 2030, researchers looked at data for 33 health-related indicators, including tuberculosis, malaria, access to clean water and proper sanitation. Singapore scored 86.6 on



the index, which was the highest score among all 188 countries studied, outperforming the Scandinavian nations, Switzerland and Britain.

Singapore showed good progress for vaccine coverage, but scored poorly for indicators pertaining to overweight children, airborne pollutants, and child sexual abuse.

For more information, you can read the full article [here](#).

Singapore's First Cerebral Palsy Registry Launched

On 8 September 2017, Singapore's first cerebral palsy registry was jointly launched by the Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore ("**CPAS**"), KK Women's and Children's Hospital ("**KKH**") and the National University Hospital.

Cerebral palsy is a disorder which results in loss of muscle control due to brain damage, and cannot be cured. Since doctors are not obliged to report cerebral palsy to the Health Ministry, there is no way to track those with cerebral palsy after they are no longer in special schools. As a result, there are no accurate figures of the number of people with cerebral palsy.

The registry will operate on an opt-in basis, and will contain data about children born after 2011 with cerebral palsy, including clinical data, contact information and other information.

The registry was set up with the aim to further research on cerebral palsy, and facilitate planning of resources for those with cerebral palsy.

For more information, you can read the full article [here](#).

SPRING Singapore announces S\$100m Boost for Deep Tech Start-ups

On 14 July 2017, Spring Singapore's investment arm, Spring Seeds Capital ("**SSC**"), announced that up to S\$100 million (about US\$74 million) could be set aside for deep technology start-ups exploring advanced manufacturing and engineering, health and biomedical sciences, and urban solutions and sustainability. These sectors were selected due to their high growth potential and significant socio-economic impact.

SSC is looking for co-investors and will match capital injections into eligible businesses with proprietary technology or research. Under this plan, SSC will contribute 70% of the first \$500,000 and 50% of any further funds, up to S\$4 million. This is twice the amount general tech start-ups are able to receive.

For more information, you can read the full article [here](#).

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