Understanding Singapore’s Healthcare System

Within a relatively short period of 50 years, Singapore has made significant progress and continues to work towards providing healthcare services that are affordable, accessible and of good quality. As of 2015, there are a total of 26 hospitals and specialty centres in Singapore, 16 of which are from the public sector and 10 from the private sector. Primary healthcare services are provided by 18 government polyclinics and about 1,500 private medical clinics. There are also intermediate and long term care services, which we are increasing in quantity and quality to better meet the demands of our ageing population.

Over the last five years, Singapore has expanded healthcare capacity in all sectors. In 2015 alone, three new acute and community hospitals were opened – Ng Teng Fong General Hospital, Jurong Community Hospital and Yishun Community Hospital. The Sengkang General and Community Hospitals, and Outram Community Hospital, are scheduled to open in the next few years.

Going forward, we will also be investing more upstream in the areas of health promotion and active ageing, so as to ensure that the population continues to “live well, live long, and with peace of mind.”

Towards an Integrated Healthcare System

Singapore’s Ministry of Health is also integrating care across the healthcare system, with six regional healthcare clusters. Each cluster is anchored by an acute hospital working alongside a variety of primary, intermediate and long-term care providers and support services to deliver patient-centric care.

The new Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and the adjacent Jurong Community Hospital is one such example of an integrated set-up. Outram, Sengkang and Woodlands are other locations where more community hospitals will be placed adjacent to existing or new acute hospitals. In addition, this initiative to integrate also extends to new nursing homes. For instance, the Ren Ci Nursing Home in Bukit Batok provides both nursing home care as well as day care services.
### Healthcare Professionals in Demand

The demand for healthcare services is expected to rise substantially, not only because of an ageing population, but also with changing disease patterns arising from lifestyles and diets.

The Health Ministry had projected that about 20,000 more healthcare professionals would be needed between 2011 and 2020, which includes allied health professionals, doctors, nurses, and pharmacists.

Even as Singapore grows its healthcare training pipelines to train more local healthcare professionals, there will be a need to continue to augment the local healthcare workforce with overseas-trained Singaporean healthcare professionals and other foreign professionals to contribute to providing affordable and excellent care for patients.

As a regional health hub with strategic industry networks and the need to care for an ageing population, Singapore has much to offer for dedicated and passionate professionals aspiring to practice in a world-class healthcare system setting.

#### Doctors

Doctors practising in Singapore must hold a degree from a university specified in the Second Schedule of the Medical Registration Act (MRA) or a registrable postgraduate medical qualification recognised by the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) or exit specialist qualification recognised for specialist accreditation by the Specialists Accreditation Board (SAB), Singapore.

Please visit the Singapore Medical Council (SMC) at [www.smc.gov.sg](http://www.smc.gov.sg) to find out more about becoming a registered doctor or specialist in Singapore and to view the list of recognised universities by the SMC. For obtaining Specialist Accreditation in Singapore, please visit [www.healthprofessionals.gov.sg/sab](http://www.healthprofessionals.gov.sg/sab).

#### Nurses

Under the Nurses and Midwives Act (Chapter 209), a person must be registered/enrolled with the Singapore Nursing Board (SNB) and possess a valid Practising Certificate (PC) in order to practise nursing/midwifery in Singapore.

Please visit the Singapore Nursing Board (SNB) website at [www.snb.gov.sg](http://www.snb.gov.sg) to find out more about becoming a registered nursing professional in Singapore.

#### Allied Health Professionals

Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) are an integral part of the healthcare team, working alongside with doctors and nurses to provide quality care to patients. Some of the allied health positions in demand include:

- Diagnostic Radiographer
- Medical Social Worker
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Speech Therapist

Please visit the Allied Health Professions Council (AHPC) website at [www.ahpc.gov.sg](http://www.ahpc.gov.sg) to find out more about becoming a registered allied health professional in Singapore and to view the list of universities recognised by the AHPC.
Career Opportunities

**Alexandra Health**
- Associate / Consultant (YCH)
- Associate Consultant / Consultant (KTPH)
- Principal / Occupational Therapist
- Principal / Senior Physiotherapist
- Resident Physician / Staff Physician
- Respiratory Therapist
- Senior / Medical Social Worker
- Senior / Radiographer

**Eastern Health Alliance**
- Associate Consultant / Consultant, Internal Medicine
- Associate Consultant / Consultant, Rehabilitation Medicine
- Resident Physician, General Medicine
- Resident Physician, Rehabilitation Medicine
- Senior / Clinical Instructor
- Senior Nurse Clinician/Nurse Clinician, Infection Control
- Senior/Physiotherapist
- Senior / Staff Nurse

**National Healthcare Group**
- Orthoptist (TTSH)
- Physiotherapist (TTSH Rehab Centre)
- Psychologist
- Respiratory Therapist (TTSH)
- Senior / Occupational Therapist - CART(TTSH)
- Senior / Podiatrist
- Senior/ Radiographer (General, MRI, CT, Ultrasound)-TTSH
- Senior / Staff Nurse
- Staff Nurse (ICU)-TTSH

**SingHealth**
- Associate Consultant /Consultant /Staff Registrar/Hospitalist (SGH)
- Associate Consultant /Consultant /Staff Registrar/Hospitalist (SKH)
- Radiographer(SGH)
- Resident Physicians (KKH)
- Resident Physicians/ Cardiologists (NHCS)
- Resident Physicians/ Family Physicians (SHP)
- Respiratory Therapist (SGH)
- Senior Speech Language Therapist (KKH)
- Speech Language Therapist (KKH)

For more career opportunities, visit our job portal at [www.contactsingapore.sg/jobs](http://www.contactsingapore.sg/jobs).

**About Contact Singapore**

Contact Singapore is an alliance of the Singapore Economic Development Board and Ministry of Manpower. We engage overseas Singaporeans and global talent to work, invest and live in Singapore.

Contact Singapore actively links Singapore-based employers with professionals to support the growth of our key industries. We work with investors to realise their business and investment interests in Singapore.

For information on working, investing and living in Singapore, please visit [www.contactsingapore.sg](http://www.contactsingapore.sg) or contact our worldwide offices.
About Singapore

In the heart of Asia lies Singapore – a bustling, world-class city state that has made waves around the world for its business excellence, connectivity to the world and its innovation.

Singapore has been consistently acknowledged as a global business hub – one that features developed infrastructure, political stability, open business policies, a skilled workforce, the use of English as the main working language and respect for intellectual property rights. Many multinational companies have chosen to set up their bases in Singapore, next to 187,700 small and medium enterprises. Business owners all over the world regard Singapore as an ideal location to grow their businesses, with many of them using the country as a springboard to tap into other emerging markets in Asia.

Besides being ranked in the World Bank 2016 Report as the world's easiest place to do business (out of 189 countries), Singapore has, among its many accolades, the top ranking in the Global Competitiveness Report 2015-2016 by the World Economic Forum as being the most competitive economy in Asia. Singapore was also ranked by the Mercer 2015 Quality of Living Survey as the top Asian country for its quality of life.

Global talent are attracted to Singapore’s meritocratic society that embraces diversity, and a high quality of life in a cosmopolitan environment.