

**MEDIA RELEASE  
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**NUH PARTNERS GP CHAIN TO OFFER DIABETIC CARE AT HOSPITAL RATES**

The National University Hospital (NUH) today signed a partnership agreement with GP group Frontier Healthcare to embark on a two-year pilot shared care programme for diabetes, a chronic condition which affects approximately 11.3% of Singaporeans aged between 18 and 69, according to the National Health Survey 2010.

Under the pilot programme, diabetic patients whose conditions are stable can be referred by their NUH doctors to designated Frontier clinics for co-management over the two-year period. These patients will pay the same rates for their consultation, screening tests and medications at the Frontier clinics as they would at the NUH.

Patients under the pilot programme are assured of the same level of care when they consult the family physicians at Frontier clinics. The family physicians will follow the same set of care components for diabetic patients practised by the specialists at NUH (see Annex). The partnership aims to ensure patients receive timely care for their conditions at greater convenience, at clinics nearer their homes.

In addition, should the pilot prove to be successful, it will potentially allow more new patients to be seen at the hospital and a shorter waiting time for a new appointment.

Commenting on the programme, the Chief Executive Officer of NUH, Mr Joe Sim, says it is a win-win situation for all parties.

“This pilot marks a step towards bringing together the expertise from both the private and public healthcare sectors to offer affordable, quality care to Singaporeans. The partnership will benefit our patients with diabetes in terms of cost and time savings as they can now choose to go to a clinic nearer their home, while enjoying the same level of care. At the same time, we are able to see more new patients at the hospital in a shorter time. We hope to make this a sustainable model for other shared care programmes.”

“We are pleased to tie up with NUH in this pilot. In our community, our clinics have a track record of participating in national chronic disease management programmes as well as collaborating with other restructured hospitals in regional programmes. Private family physicians are in a unique position to play a more active role in holistic chronic disease management because of their broad based medical training, proximity and easy accessibility to patients in the community. We look forward to working closely with our NUH colleagues to bring about better care for patients with diabetes,” says Dr Tham Tat Yean, the Chief Executive Officer of Frontier Healthcare.

An outcome study will be conducted at the end of the pilot programme to assess the clinical outcomes, as well as patient and GP satisfaction levels. If proven successful, NUH plans to roll out the programme to other disciplines such as asthma, heart, rheumatology and psychological medicine.

## Media Contact

Chua Hwee Leng  
Senior Executive, Corporate Communications  
National University Hospital  
DID: (65) 6772 6369  
HP: (65) 9649 9029  
Email: [hwee\\_leng\\_chua@nuhs.edu.sg](mailto:hwee_leng_chua@nuhs.edu.sg)

Goh Sze Ling  
Executive, Corporate Communications  
National University Hospital  
DID: (65) 6772 5118  
HP: (65) 9649 9029  
Email: [sze\\_ling\\_goh@nuhs.edu.sg](mailto:sze_ling_goh@nuhs.edu.sg)

## About the National University Hospital

The NUH is a tertiary specialist hospital and major referral centre for a wide range of medical, surgical and dental specialties including Cardiology, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Oncology, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics and Orthopaedic Surgery.

A member of the National University Health System, it is the principal teaching hospital of the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (YLL SoM). With combined resources from the NUS YLL SoM and Faculty of Dentistry, the NUH is poised to meet the healthcare needs of patients, train future generations of doctors more effectively, and help develop solutions to our healthcare problems through research.

In 2007, the NUH was chosen by the Ministry of Health to develop two new national centres, the National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS) and the National University Heart Centre, Singapore (NUHCS) to meet the growing needs for cardiac and cancer treatment.

In 2004, the NUH became the first Singapore hospital to receive Joint Commission International (JCI) Accreditation, an international stamp for excellent clinical practices in patient care and safety.

For more information, please visit [www.nuh.com.sg](http://www.nuh.com.sg)

## About Frontier Healthcare Group

Frontier Healthcare Group is a primary care group that is currently managing 8 family practice clinics in the heartland. These clinics are staffed by a core team of Family Medicine vocationalists.

The Group's doctors are actively involved in undergraduate and postgraduate Family Medicine teaching, working closely with the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine in the National University of Singapore, the Division of Family Medicine in the National University Health System and the College of Family Physicians Singapore. The Group is also part of the Singapore Clinical Research Institute's (SCRI) Family Medicine Research Network. Within this network, its doctors have the opportunity to collaborate with SCRI and other family physicians and conduct clinical research.

For more information, please visit [www.frontierhealthcare.com.sg](http://www.frontierhealthcare.com.sg)

**Annex: Care Components of the Shared Care Programme for Diabetes**

No.	Diabetic Care Component	Annual Frequency
1	Consultation and review	Every 3 to 4 months
2	Hb1Ac test	Every 3 to 4 months
3	Lipid profile	Once a year
4	Renal screening	Once a year
5	Eye DRP screening	Once a year
6	Foot assessment	Once a year