



## Time for MMA GPs to Rally for a Common Cause

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PPS Chairman

**W**ith a multitude of issues facing the General Practitioners (GPs) of our country, it is time that we rally together and present our concerns with a common voice. The claims of MMA being useless and not effective in representing our members are partly due to the fault of our own members who are fragmented and looking after their own concerns. Of course, there is also the fact that there is political infighting among our members up to the point where MMA's existence is jeopardised.

At present, we are the largest representative body of doctors in Malaysia even though we are not representative of the majority. And I believe that we do need to move forward for our doctors.

For a start, PPS will engage with our GP members. The impending healthcare reform will affect all of us doctors. But with the percentage of GPs being so large, and also with the GP practice being redefined, there is a real need for all of us to speak with one voice and to meet the challenges facing us.

Moving forward means engaging with issues affecting GPs as a single body. It also means finding ways and means to enable our GPs to further improve their lot. But it doesn't mean the formation of a group which we can use to oppose whatever some of us perceive as unfair practices against the GPs. It is to be used as a bargaining tool in the effort to allow our GPs to continue practising medicine in an ethical manner.

As a start, PPS will need the consensus of our GP members to allow it to move forward. MMA GP members are requested to email to [pps@mma.org.my](mailto:pps@mma.org.my), their names and also current contact details with the subject title as GPs of MMA.

MMA is already working on certain benefits for our member GPs.

Low consultation fee is the bone of contention for our practising GPs. There have been numerous calls for our GPs to refrain from accepting low consultation fee over so many of our past years. These have largely fallen on deaf ears. GPs on contract with large



Sabah members in discussion over the 1Care for 1Malaysia

organisations including TPAs will not voice out their objections or request for higher fee for fear that they will be replaced with another GP who will accept the low fee offered. GPs with a slow flow of patients will work for lower fee as it's better than nothing.

Also, many new GPs are joining chain clinics or large networks in the hope of getting onto the list of panel companies contracted with these clinics.

Have you forgotten the fact that MMA GP members form the largest network of primary care doctors in Malaysia? We have a large bargaining capacity here.

In view of this, PPS is already in discussion with TPA to get all MMA GP members registered with them. In return, we will ask for a consultation fee which is higher than those offered by other TPAs at the moment. A lot of our member GPs may not be happy with the consultation fees which will be agreed upon, but then what amount will be considered enough? Of course, all of us would like the highest fees possible. I would ask all of you to be realistic and bear with us as we try to negotiate for a higher consultation fee.

Medical examination of foreign students is another matter which we are working on for our GP members. Without going into the details, pending official documentation, I can safely say that MMA GP members will benefit from this. We are going to be selfish and say that we are doing it for MMA members only. Join us if you want to reap the benefits of being a MMA GP member.

Does the idea of being part of a network of GPs that allows you to have the benefits as stated earlier interest you? If so, I will await your email at [pps@mma.org.my](mailto:pps@mma.org.my).

Get your GP friends to sign up as a MMA member too, in order to reap the benefits. There are other goodies in the pipeline for our GP members. **M**



PPS Chairman rallying the GPs in KK Sabah