

## **More Women Going For Breast Cancer Screening in the Community**

**17 March 2019**

**For Immediate Release**

In 2018, the number of women who went for breast cancer screening for the **first time** more than doubled under the Community Mammobus Programme; the number of first-time screeners rose from 925 in 2017 to 1,953 in 2018.

Since the Community Mammobus Programme's launch in January 2018, the total number of women who were screened rose by about 68 per cent (from 2,549 in 2017 to 4,273 in 2018).

The growth in numbers can be attributed to efforts made to make breast cancer screening more accessible and affordable for eligible women. These included partnering more community centres and corporate organisations for the Programme, which is a collaboration between the National Healthcare Group Diagnostics (NHGD), the Breast Cancer Foundation (BCF), and the Singapore Cancer Society (SCS). In 2018, 81 organisers engaged this Programme, up 37 per cent from 59 organisations in 2017.

### **Bringing Breast Cancer Screening into the Community**

The Community Mammobus Programme provides breast cancer screening for women at community centres and workplaces. Given the positive results, and to encourage more women to get screened for breast cancer, NHGD, BCF, and SCS have extended their collaboration to January 2020. This extension allows eligible women, aged between 40 and 69, to participate in screenings at subsidised rates, ranging from \$0 to \$35. In addition, a second Mammobus will be rolled out later this year to expand screening capabilities.

This Programme is important in the fight against breast cancer, the principal cause of cancer deaths among women in Singapore. By making breast cancer screening within easy reach, screening take-up rates have increased, enabling earlier detection, and therefore, better health outcomes for the population.

#### **Ms Lim Soh Har, Executive Director, National Healthcare Group Diagnostics:**

"We are privileged to partner SCS and BCF in making mammogram screening more accessible, convenient, and affordable to eligible women with the NHGD Mammobus. Through this tripartite effort, we have successfully reached out to more women, particularly those who are screening for the first time. Organisations and community leaders have been supportive, and there was a 40 per cent increase in screening events organised for their workforce, residents, and tenants over the past year. Such screenings support the Ministry of Health (MOH)'s objective of placing more emphasis on health instead of healthcare. With the success of the programme, the three partners have decided to extend it to benefit more women."

**Mrs Noor Quek, President, Breast Cancer Foundation:**

"Breast Cancer Foundation's \$2.5 million funding towards subsidised mammogram screening at polyclinics and the Community Mammobus Programme has served nearly 60,000 women in Singapore. We are heartened and encouraged by the rising number of women who take charge of their breast health through regular self-checks and screenings, and continue to champion early detection. It is with great pleasure that we extend this effective collaboration with our partners, NHGD and SCS, to make mammogram screenings accessible and affordable to all women in Singapore."

**Mr Albert Ching, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Cancer Society:**

"As the leading charity in the fight for a cancer-free community, the Singapore Cancer Society (SCS) conducts cancer screening for more than 100,000 annually, as part of our efforts to reduce cancer incidence and improve cancer survival rates. Through this collaboration with NHGD and BCF, we have managed to reach out to even more women. It is encouraging to see the significant increase in first time participants getting screened as well as the strong interest from community partners in bringing breast cancer screening closer to the community. As SCS moves ahead with this strengthened partnership and greater synergy, we will continue to focus on community and corporate outreach so as to provide greater access and support for women through the Community Mammobus Programme."

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**About National Healthcare Group Diagnostics**

The National Healthcare Group Diagnostics (NHGD) is a business division under the National Healthcare Group (NHG). As a leading provider in the primary healthcare for one-stop imaging and laboratory service, NHGD supports polyclinics, General Practitioners, community hospitals, nursing homes, home care providers and the community via its extensive network of imaging centres, laboratories, mobile imaging centres and mobile services in Singapore. Over the years, NHGD has grown to deliver more accessible, affordable and quality diagnostics services for the community.

NHGD also provides mobile diagnostics services to support the right-siting of care in the community and homes. The mobile imaging fleet and mobile services are an integral part of Singapore's primary care transformation, enabling patients to have their medical diagnostics examinations and preventive screening tests done nearer their homes, thereby reducing commuting and appointment lead time.

**About the NHGD Mammobus**

The NHGD Mammobus is Singapore's first and only mobile mammography screening centre that is accredited under both the Medisave scheme and the BreastScreen Singapore (BSS) programme. It brings convenient mammogram service to the door-steps of working ladies and busy housewives. The all-female environment extends comfort and privacy to the participants who will also receive patient education on breast health management and breast self-examination on-board.

**Breast Cancer Foundation**

Breast Cancer Foundation (BCF) is a non-profit organisation with the mission to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease. Set up in 1997, BCF is committed to raising awareness about breast cancer through talks, events and publications that advocate early detection through regular screening, as well as supporting survivors and their families through various befriending and training activities. As one of the few advocacy groups in the world with a Men's Support League that was integrated with Caregiver Support Group in year 2017, BCF aims to encourage greater male participation in society's fight against this affliction. For more information, visit [www.bcf.org.sg](http://www.bcf.org.sg) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

**Singapore Cancer Society**

Established in 1964, Singapore Cancer Society (SCS) is a self-funded voluntary welfare organisation which provides patient care services to needy cancer patients through its welfare, hospice home care, financial assistance for cancer treatment and rehabilitation support programmes. In addition, the Society also provides free cancer screening services and promotes cancer awareness and prevention through its public education and community outreach programmes.

## **Annex**

### **Breast Cancer in Singapore**

Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer among women in Singapore, affecting three out of 10 women diagnosed with cancer. The incidence of breast cancer has more than doubled over the past 40 years, from 24.6 to 65.3 per 100,000 women. Each year, there are about 1,930 newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer, and about 420 deaths.<sup>1</sup> One in 15 Singaporean women develops breast cancer by the age of 75.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Who is eligible for Mammobus screening?**

- Singaporeans and Permanent Residents
- Women between the age of 40 and 49\* who have not had a mammogram in the past 12 months
- Women aged 50 and above who have not had a mammogram in the past 24 months
- Women who have not breastfed for the past 6 months
- Not pregnant
- No breast implants
- No history of breast cancer
- Women who have not experienced any breast cancer symptoms such as breast lumps, changes in size or shape of breast, recent history of nipple retraction, bloody nipple discharge, itch and rash on nipple, skin redness or skin sore on the breast

*\*Women between 40 and 49 years old are eligible for screening but they should talk to their doctor about the benefits and limitations of mammograms in this age group so that they can make an informed choice about going for screening.*

#### **Community Mammobus Programme's fees**

		Cost of Mammgram (After GST)	Subsidies and Funding Assistance						Screener To Pay
			Health Promotion Board Breast Screen Singapore(BSS) Subsidy	Ministry of Health Pioneer Generation	GST Absorbed by BSS	"SCS-BCF-NHGD Mammobus" Initiative			
						SCS	BCF	NHGD	
Singapore Citizen	1st Time Screener	107	50		7	20	20	10	0
	Repeat Screener	107	50		7	20	20		10
	PG Cardholders (1st Time)	107	50	25	7	7.5	7.5	10	0
	PG Cardholders (Repeat)	107	50	25	7	7.5	7.5		10
Permanent Resident	1st Time Screener	107	25		7	20	20	10	25
	Repeat Screener	107	25		7	20	20		35
Non Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident		107							107

<sup>1</sup> Source: Singapore Cancer Registry Annual Report 2015, National Registry of Diseases Office

<sup>2</sup> Source: Trends in Cancer Incidence in Singapore 2010 – 2014, Annual Report, Singapore Cancer Registry, National Registry of Diseases Office

### Schedule of the Mammobus from March to June 2019

S/N	Date	Duration	Venue	Contact number
1	9 Mar	9am – 12pm	National University Cancer Institute Singapore @ Nanyang Market	67726596
2	10 Mar	9am – 4pm	Kallang Leisure Park by Breast Cancer Foundation	6933 4736
3	17 Mar	9am – 12pm	Punggol 21 Community Club	6312 0508
4	23 Mar	9am – 4pm	Ulu Pandan Community Club @ St. Margaret Secondary School	6463 7333
5	24 Mar	1pm – 4pm	Chong Pang Community Club	6758 8258
6	30 Mar	9am – 12pm	Ulu Pandan Community Club @ St. Margaret Secondary School	6463 7333
7	7 Apr	9am – 4pm	Geylang West Community Club Women Executive Committee	6748 3024
8	13 Apr	9am – 4pm	World Health Day by Singapore Cancer Society	6496 6633
9	14 Apr	9am – 4pm	Bukit Panjang Community Club	6506 0909
10	20 Apr	9am – 4pm	Ayer Rajah Community Club	6560 9983
11	28 Apr	9am – 4pm	Ang Mo Kio Community Club	6452 9644
12	18 May	9am – 4pm	National University Cancer Institute Singapore	6772 6596

For updates to the Mammobus' schedule, please refer to  
[https://diagnostics.nhg.com.sg/ourservices\\_details.aspx?id=147](https://diagnostics.nhg.com.sg/ourservices_details.aspx?id=147)