

AKHBAR : KOSMO

MUKA SURAT : 6

RUANGAN : NEGARA

Berjaya atasi kesesakan jabatan kecemasan hospital kerajaan

Lanjut operasi klinik kesihatan

Oleh RIDZAUDDIN ROSLAN

PUTRAJAYA - Projek rintis bagi mengurangkan kesesakan di jabatan kecemasan hospital kerajaan dengan memindahkan operasi zon hijau kepada klinik kesihatan di luar waktu operasi dilihat berjaya menurunkan purata pesakit ke jabatan kecemasan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Dr. Zaliha Mustafa berkata, projek rintis dilaksanakan di Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah (HTAR) dan Klinik Kesihatan Bandar Botanik (KKBB) di Klang itu bermula 25 Mac lalu berjaya menunjukkan trend penurunan.

"Sehingga 9 April 2023, purata kedatangan pesakit zon hijau ke Jabatan Kecemasan dan Trauma HTAR mencatatkan penurunan

kedatangan pesakit sebanyak 54 peratus.

"Trend penurunan itu berlaku lebih ketara pada hari Sabtu dan Ahad dan selari dengan peningkatan kedatangan pesakit ke KKBB selepas intervensi pelanjutan tempoh operasi ini dilaksanakan," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Susulan itu, katanya, KKM memutuskan untuk memperluas skop projek rintis intervensi pemanjangan tempoh operasi itu ke klinik kesihatan yang lain.

"Lima klinik kesihatan telah dipilih untuk tujuan itu melibatkan daerah Gombak, Hulu Langat, Ipoh, Johor Bharu dan Kuala Lumpur.

"Di samping pelanjutan waktu operasi di klinik kesihatan, tujuh lagi tindakan penyelesaian

jangka pendek dan jangka sederhana bagi mengurangkan kesesakan pesakit di hospital kerajaan sedang dilaksanakan.

"Antaranya adalah pelaksanaan rintis Skim Perubatan Madani, semakan semula akta, pekeliling dan garis panduan berkaitan, perluasan perkhidmatan penjagaan kesihatan virtual dan strategi komunikasi melalui *behavioral insight*," ujarnya.

Katanya, KKM juga menggalakkan pesakit yang tidak mengalami sakit kritikal untuk mendapatkan rawatan di klinik kesihatan berhampiran.

"Pendekatan ini dapat membantu doktor dan anggota kesihatan dalam memberikan rawatan segera kepada pesakit kritikal di jabatan kecemasan hospital kerajaan," katanya.



OPERASI zon hijau yang dipindahkan ke klinik kesihatan dapat kurangkan kesesakan di jabatan kecemasan hospital kerajaan. - GAMBAR HIASAN

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

Projek rintis KKM kurangkan kesesakan pesakit di jabatan kecemasan

SHAH ALAM - Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) telah memulakan pelaksanaan tindakan segera projek rintis dengan melanjutkan waktu operasi sehingga 9.30 malam bagi mengurangkan kesesakan pesakit di jabatan kecemasan di hospital kerajaan.

Menteri Kesihatan, Dr Zaliha Mustafa berkata, projek dengan kerjasama Pasukan Petugas Khas Reformasi Sektor Awam (STAR), kementerian dan agensi kerajaan berkaitan itu dibentangkan dalam Mesyuarat Majlis Tindakan Malaysia Madani (MTMM) pada Khamis yang dipengerusikan oleh Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"Projek rintis ini telah dilaksanakan di Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah (HTAR) dan Klinik Kesihatan Bandar Botanik

(KKBB) di daerah Klang. Tindakan segera cadangan intervensi adalah memindahkan operasi zon hijau (bukan kecemasan) Jabatan Kecemasan HTAR ke KKBB di luar waktu operasi bermula pada 25 Mac lalu dengan KKBB melanjutkan waktu operasi sehingga jam 9.30 malam setiap hari.

"Sehingga 9 April lalu, purata pesakit zon hijau ke Jabatan Kecemasan dan Trauma, HTAR mencatatkan penurunan kedatangan pesakit sebanyak 54 peratus.

"Trend penurunan ini berlaku lebih ketara pada Sabtu dan Ahad, selari dengan peningkatan kedatangan pesakit ke KKBB



DR ZALIHA

selepas intervensi lanjutan tempoh operasi ini dilaksanakan bermula 25 Mac lalu," katanya dalam kenyataan pada Khamis.

Ujar Dr Zaliha, pihaknya melaksanakan tujuh tindakan penyelesaian jangka pendek dan jangka sederhana bagi mengurangkan kesesakan pesakit di hospital kerajaan.

"Antaranya adalah pelaksanaan rintis Skim Perubatan Madani, semakan

semula akta, pekeliling dan garis panduan berkaitan, pelaksanaan pengurusan Lean, peluasan perkhidmatan penjagaan kesihatan virtual serta strategi komunikasi melalui *behavioral insight* (wawasan ting-

kah laku) sedang berjalan dengan kerjasama kementerian dan agensi kerajaan berkenaan," ujarnya.

Selain itu, katanya, KKM turut memutuskan untuk memperluas skop projek rintis intervensi pemanjangan tempoh operasi ke klinik-klinik kesihatan lain.

Jelas beliau, antara klinik kesihatan yang telah dipilih bagi tujuan itu melibatkan daerah Gombak, Hulu Langat, Ipoh, Johor Bahru dan Kuala Lumpur.

"KKM amat menggalakkan pesakit yang tidak mengalami sakit kritikal untuk mendapatkan rawatan di klinik kesihatan.

"Pendekatan ini membantu doktor dan anggota kesihatan dalam memberikan rawatan segera kepada pesakit kritikal di jabatan kecemasan hospital kerajaan," jelasnya.

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN
MUKA SURAT : 8
RUANGAN : NASIONAL

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SABTU 15 APRIL 2023 • SINAR HARIAN

Pengalaman seumur hidup pengerusikan mesyuarat jawatankuasa tertinggi dalam WHO - Dr Noor Hisham

FOTO: FB DR NOOR HISHAM ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR - "Ini pengalaman seumur hidup mempengerusikan mesyuarat jawatankuasa tertinggi dalam WHO," kata Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah kepada *Bernama* pada Jumaat.

Dr Noor Hisham yang akan bersara daripada perkhidmatan awam dalam tempoh seminggu berada di Geneva bagi mempengerusikan mesyuarat kedua Jawatankuasa Tetap Pencegahan, Kesiapsiagaan dan Tindak Balas Kecemasan Kesihatan (SCHEPPR) Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO) yang diadakan dua hari bermula Khamis.

Belliau dilantik sebagai pengerusi pertama jawatankuasa itu bagi tempoh antara satu hingga dua tahun pada mesyuarat pertamanya yang diadakan secara maya pada 12 Disember tahun lalu.

Isnin lalu, media melaporkan Dr Noor

Hisham akan bersara sebagai Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan pada 21 April selepas 35 tahun berkhidmat dalam kerajaan.

Dalam ucapan pada mesyuarat itu, Dr Noor Hisham menekankan peranan utama SCHEPPR adalah untuk menyokong dan mengukuhkan WHO, Peraturan Kesihatan Antarabangsa (IHR) dan Badan Perundingan Antara Kerajaan (INB).

Belliau berkata, taklimat pengenalan oleh Jawatankuasa Pengawasan dan Penasihat Bebas (IOAC), Lembaga Pemantauan Kesiapsiagaan Global (GPMB) dan Program Kecemasan Kesihatan WHO (WHE) turut diberikan kepada ahli Jawatankuasa Tetap (SC) berorientasikan kerja mereka.

"Seperti dinyatakan sebelum ini, jawatankuasa tetap ini tidak akan bertindak sebagai pendua, sebaliknya melengkapkan tugasannya baik dilakukan IOAC dan GPMB.



Dr Noor Hisham (dua dari kiri) ketika mempengerusikan mesyuarat jawatankuasa tertinggi dalam WHO.

Adalah penting bagi SC untuk beri keutamaan kepada kerja yang digariskan dalam TOR dan kekal fokus dalam perbincangan dan pertimbangan," katanya. Lembaga Eksekutif 34 anggota WHO,

semasa mesyuarat tahunannya pada Mei tahun lalu bersetuju membentuk SCHEPPR untuk membantu mempercepatkan tindak balasnya terhadap kecemasan kesihatan global seperti Covid-19.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 5
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Hartal Doktor Kontrak tunggu Kertas Putih, sebelum kemuka sebarang tuntutan

PETALING JAYA: Sekretariat Hartal Doktor Kontrak akan meneliti isi kandungan Kertas Putih Kesihatan yang dibangunkan Kementerian Kesihatan terlebih dahulu sebelum mengemukakan sebarang tuntutan.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, jurucakapnya yang enggan dikenali berkata, ini kerana dokumen membabitkan dasar asas baharu kepada sektor perkhidmatan kesihatan negara itu masih lagi menjadi tanda tanya semua pihak.

"Menteri Kesihatan (Dr. Zaliha

Mustafa) ada maklumkan yang akan ada *roadshow* oleh Kementerian Kesihatan untuk menerangkan mengenai Kertas Putih tersebut.

"Jadi kita akan tengok apa isi kandungan Kertas Putih sebelum membuat sebarang tuntutan...sebab sekarang kita dan juga rakyat langsung tiada maklumat mengenai kertas tersebut," katanya ketika dihubungi di sini.

Semalam, akhbar ini melaporkan, Dr. Zaliha memberi jaminan penubuhan Suruhanjaya Reformasi Kesihatan akan di-

perincikan apabila Kertas Putih Kesihatan dibentang dan diluluskan Parlimen.

La sebagai maklum balas kepada tiga tuntutan dikemukakan Sekretariat Doktor Hartal Kontrak melalui memorandum yang diserahkan sendiri kepada beliau, Selasa lalu.

Dua lagi tuntutan melibatkan permintaan sekretariat itu untuk menganggotai Jawatankuasa Peringkat Tertinggi (HLC) bagi membincangkan krisis dan isu-isu melibatkan kepentingan doktor kontrak.

Selain itu, sekretariat itu turut menuntut pihak kementerian dan kerajaan melihat permasalahan pegawai dan staf perubatan kontrak bagi skim-skim lain dalam perkhidmatan kesihatan.

Sementara itu, Menteri Kesihatan pada 10 Januari lalu dilaporkan berkata, kementeriannya menyasarkan pembentangan Kertas Putih Kesihatan di Parlimen pada pertengahan tahun ini.

Setakat Februari lepas, dokumen berkenaan kini dilaporkan dalam proses akhir untuk di-

Projek rintis kurangkan kesesakan hospital berhasil

PUTRAJAYA: Pelaksanaan projek rintis bagi mengurangkan kesesakan pesakit yang dimulakan di Jabatan Kecemasan dan Trauma Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah (HTAR) menunjukkan kesan positif apabila kadar kedatangan pesakit menurun 54 peratus setakat 9 April lalu.

Menteri Kesihatan, Dr. Zaliha Mustafa berkata, langkah itu dilaksanakan dengan memindahkan operasi zon hijau (bukan kecemasan) Jabatan Kecemasan HTAR ke Klinik Kesihatan Bandar Botanik (KKBB) di daerah Klang di luar waktu operasi bermula 25 Mac lalu.

Melalui pemindahan pesakit itu, kata beliau, KKBB melanjutkan waktu operasi sehingga 9.30 malam setiap hari.

"Penurunan ini berlaku lebih ketara pada hari Sabtu dan Ahad dan selari dengan peningkatan kedatangan pesakit ke KKBB selepas intervensi pelanjutan tempoh operasi.

"Untuk itu, KKM memuktuskan memperluas skop projek rintis intervensi pemanjangan tempoh operasi ke klinik-klinik kesihatan lain dengan lima klinik kesihatan dipilih melibatkan daerah Gombak, Hulu Langat, Ipoh, Johor Bharu dan Kuala Lumpur," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Zaliha berkata, status terkini pelaksanaan projek rintis bagi mengurangkan kesesakan pesakit di hospital kerajaan itu dibentangkan dalam Mesyuarat Majlis Tindakan Malaysia Madani (MTMM) Bilangan 1/2023 yang dipengerusikan Perdana Menteri, semalam.

Projek inisiatif Bitara Madani yang dipacu Pasukan Petugas Khas Reformasi Sektor Awam (STAR) itu adalah bagi menyelesaikan segera masalah dan kesulitan dihadapi rakyat.

AKHBAR : THE STAR

MUKA SURAT : 9

RUANGAN : NATION

Brace for surge in Covid-19 cases, warn experts

By RAGANANTHINI
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PETALING JAYA: With newer Covid-19 sub-lineages doing the rounds and driving up infections in countries such as Singapore and India, experts say Malaysia, too, must brace itself for a surge in cases, with particular concern over the mass gatherings usually seen during Hari Raya.

Prof Dr Moy Foong Ming of University Malaya's Faculty of Medicine said a potential surge was possible during the festive season due to higher mobility as more people were travelling and mingling.

"If the symptoms are mild, most

people may treat it like the flu, not getting tested nor reported. If the number of severe cases, hospitalisation or death does not increase too much, there should be no need to worry so much," she said.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Faculty specialist for public healthcare, Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh, said the XBB variant that had been circulating for the past few months was the combination of the BA.2.10.1 and BA.2.75 sub-lineages.

"XBB is considered part of the Omicron variant as of October 2022. XBB has been detected in 35 countries, including the United States, Singapore, India, Australia and South Korea.

"XBB might be more transmissi-

ble, and better at evading efforts to stop them, such as through vaccines and treatments.

"Evidence suggests there might be a higher reinfection risk with XBB. In other words, even if you already had Covid-19, it's possible you could get reinfected by the XBB variant," she said.

So far, there is no evidence that XBB will pose a greater risk than other Omicron sub-variants.

Covid-19 vaccines can still offer protection against severe disease.

But Prof Moy said one's immune response also plays a role in reinfection, whereby those with comorbidity, the elderly, the unvaccinated or those without complete vaccination may be at higher risk.

She said the proposed bivalent

booster shots may provide sufficient protection against XBB.1.5 and other Omicron sub-variant XBB.1.5, which is also known as Kraken.

"XBB.1.16 (also called Arcturus) was also recently detected and may give rise to some cases in some countries.

"XBB.1.16 is of the XBB lineage, related to the current dominant variant in the US being XBB.1.5.

"It has been identified in several countries with highest case counts such as India, followed by the United States, Brunei, Singapore and the United Kingdom. All these are Omicron variants," she added.

"Arcturus is nearly 1.2 times as transmissible as Kraken, the most infectious sub-variant until now.

It's creating a lot of infections in India now," she said.

The World Health Organisation said on Thursday that it is monitoring Arcturus, which is fuelling a recent surge of cases in India.

Association of Specialists in Private Medical Practice of Malaysia president Prof Datuk Dr Baiwant Singh Gendeh said people with comorbidities, particularly those related to the respiratory system such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and smokers, may be more prone to hospitalisation compared to those without pre-existing health conditions.

But he said this is not limited to lung condition alone, but also others such as diabetes and heart condition.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : COMPANIES & STRATEGIES

HEALTHCARE

By DANIEL KHOO
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AFTER a lull in the arrival of medical tourists to the country, this segment of the private healthcare industry is experiencing a resurgence.

This is the result of expectations that the Covid-19 pandemic is contained and with the full reopening of international borders.

Medical tourists are also likely to be taking advantage of the relatively weaker ringgit. However, medical tourism is not only booming in Malaysia but also in other countries in the region such as Singapore and Thailand.

The Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC) notes that competition for medical tourists is getting stiffer. Thus, relying on the weak ringgit alone would not suffice and operators hoping to attract medical tourists would need to continually stay on top of their game, MHTC says.

Vietnam is a new entrant that is fast catching up, says MHTC in its Malaysia Healthcare Travel Industry Blueprint 2021-2025 report.

MHTC, which is an agency under the Health Ministry, says that competition is getting more keen especially from Thailand, Singapore and South Korea.

"There is also an increased threat of substitutes due to improvements in healthcare

Medical tourism on the rise, as is competition

systems in the home countries of Malaysia's target markets," MHTC says.

"This suggests that the Malaysia healthcare travel industry is at risk of losing its market share to competitors by 2025. A clear strategy is essential for the industry to be able to survive, sustain and grow ahead of the future competition," it notes.

MHTC also notes there is a need to strengthen the healthcare travel ecosystem or to ease the connectivity and communication to smoothen out touch points of a healthcare traveller's journey.

However, it also points out the country's existing strengths including a strong medical regulatory environment, high readiness for emergencies, internationally recognised medical professionals and high-quality affordable medical services.

Given these strengths, there are still ample opportunities to attract healthcare travellers from lesser developed countries with weaker healthcare systems and that the key restraint is due to inadequate access to comprehensive information on Malaysian healthcare, it says.

According to industry players, Malaysia's private hospitals are renowned for their advanced cardiology and cancer treatments.

The main listed companies that provide private healthcare include IHH Healthcare Bhd and KPJ Healthcare Bhd.

Sime Darby Bhd is also involved in the provision of private healthcare through its 50:50 joint venture with Australia-based Ramsay Health Care Ltd called Ramsay Sime Darby Health Care Sdn Bhd.

IHH in its recent fourth quarter ended Dec 31, 2022 financial report notes there was a strong recovery of foreign patient volumes in Malaysia and Singapore following the reopening of borders.

"Malaysian hospital inpatient admissions increased 33% in the fourth quarter while its revenue per inpatient admission decreased 3% to RM9,769. Patients, including those with less acute illnesses, have returned to Malaysian hospitals in the fourth quarter 2022," IHH says.

KPJ, on the other hand, points out in its recent fourth quarter ended Dec 31, 2022 of the turnaround in fortunes in the medical tourism segment. It is well positioned to cater to this and intends to continue capitalising on the segment for growth, the group says.

Smaller players that have exposure to the private healthcare scene include TDM Bhd and LYC Healthcare Bhd.

TDM is a hospital operator while LYC is involved in the provision of mother and child care related services as well as cosmetic and aesthetic services. It has also acquired specialised medical service providers focusing on orthopaedic, osteoporosis and chronic diseases.

LYC's group chief operating officer Ahmad Rafique Mat Tahir says medical tourism has been seeing a resurgence in Singapore for example despite its strong currency and this has surpassed the levels achieved pre-pandemic.

"There is a pent-up demand being experienced. In Singapore we mainly cater to the ultra high net worth patients. During Covid-19, many couldn't travel for this purpose and so they had to postpone their elective surgeries.

"We definitely see an improvement here. Due to this, we have also expanded our range of service offerings and the existing business in Singapore on this spike. This relates to the orthopaedic and chronic illnesses care," Ahmad Rafique tells *StarBizWeek*.

In Malaysia, LYC is in the midst of setting up a company through a joint venture with a China-based company to target medical tourists from China and Indonesia.

"We are in the midst of setting up a medical centre in the heart of KL that would focus on dental, aesthetics and health screenings – targeting the high net worth people in both countries," he says.

He notes the weak ringgit is an aiding factor which would help boost its competitive standing among medical tourists abroad.