

MMA: GP fee revision crucial step to strengthen primary care

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has welcomed the gazettment of new regulations revising general practitioner (GP) consultation fees, describing it as a long-overdue move to strengthen primary care.

The amendment, under P.U. (A) 150/2026 to Schedule 7 of the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Regulations 2006, takes effect today.

MMA said GP consultation fees had remained unchanged since 2006, based on a structure dating back to 1992, and were no longer sustainable under current healthcare demands.

The association also expressed appreciation to Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad for his continued engagement, as well as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for announcing the revision under Budget 2026.

It acknowledged the Health Ministry, particularly its Medical Practice Division, for completing the revision process.

MMA said the revised fee structure introduces flexibility, allowing consultation charges to better reflect clinical complexity, market conditions and patient needs.

However, it said that flexibility should not be seen as a uniform increase, noting that fees would vary depending on the nature and complexity of care.

"A simple consultation is not the same as managing a complex chronic condition and should not be priced the same," it said in a statement.

The association said patients may have concerns over the revision but assured that not all consultations would see an increase.

It added that many patients currently access care through corporate panels managed by third-party administrators, where rates have

remained outdated and no longer reflect current medical practice.

MMA said it would continue engaging with stakeholders to ensure consultation rates remain appropriate and sustainable.

It also welcomed the Health Ministry's new guidelines on intravenous (IV) drip services in private clinics, saying they would help ensure such treatments are delivered safely, ethically and within proper outpatient scope.

MMA president Thirunavukarasu Rajoo said the revision marks an important step forward but should not be a one-off exercise.

"If we do not build a system for periodic review, we will face the same issue again in the future," he said.

He added that strengthening primary care is essential, as it forms the foundation of the healthcare system and helps prevent higher costs in the long term.