

What Can MMA Do For You?



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Meeting with MPS on 12 March 2018



Meeting JK CPD Technical for Non Specialist on 13 March 2018

This is the topic I was given to present at the recent 8th Annual Scientific Meeting & Regional Update 2018 in Kuantan, Pahang on 18 March 2018. This reminded me of the late John F. Kennedy a former President of the United States of America who once said, "Ask not what the country can do for you, but what you can do for the country". What an appropriate statement. Can I say the same for MMA as to "What you can do for MMA?" I am sure the answer will be a NO. I have been asked on numerous occasions on "What can MMA do for me?" Why should I join the MMA and what are the benefits for ME?

For over five decades since the Malaysian Medical Association embarked on a path for the medical profession, the main objectives of the Association have always been to maintain a high standard of Medical Ethics and Conduct, to promote social, cultural and

professional activities among those in the medical profession, to enlighten and direct opinions on health problems and to express the views of the profession to Government and other bodies. Finally, to maintain the highest standard of healthcare for the people of this country. After all, MMA is an association by doctors for doctors.

The history and growth of the MMA is an impressive one, it is indeed an honour for me to talk about the aptitude of MMA and what exactly MMA can do for you.

1. Striving for the General Practitioners (GPs) and Specialists in Malaysia

We at MMA strongly feel that the GPs and specialists need more representation to voice the diverse and innumerable issues faced by the profession.



Meeting with KSU on 14 March 2018

i. Third Party Administrators Issue

The biggest concern that has been constantly and repeatedly voiced out by the GPs and Specialists about TPAs over the years is the lack of, or no regulatory framework, for operation of TPAs. This has become crucial since it involves major ethical facets of doctors in their healthcare service deliveries to patients. For the past 23 years, we have seen many Ministers of Health and Directors General of Health walking the corridors of power of the MOH, nevertheless there has been no importance or urgency given to resolve the countless legitimate issues faced between the GPs and the TPAs.

There are 7000 GP clinics in the country and the time has come for the Ministry Of Health and Malaysian Medical Council to not only listen to the dissatisfaction and discontentment of GPs, but to be responsive by taking the obligatory action in resolving the issue.

MMA sincerely expects the MOH, as well as the MMC, to be firm in deciding for short- and long-term solutions on this issue. In view of that, MMA has been striving hard to address the TPA issues and convey the grievances of the GPs to the MOH and MMC, for response to be instantaneous and prompt.

ii. Premise License

The implementation of premise license fees on 1 September 2016 by DBKL on all private clinics was included. The doctors were very unhappy with this new imposition as they are already registered under the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 586 and this fee by DBKL is viewed as redundant and a way to make money.

In reciprocation, MMA in its constant fight for the welfare of the GPs, has urged the DBKL through letters, press statements and meetings to waive the premise license fee for medical clinics. MMA is deeply concerned that over-regulation and overlapping of regulations might increase the cost of practice and inconvenient to the doctors, hence violating the aims of increasing productivity and safeguarding consumers. As of today, the matter has not been resolved but rest assured that MMA will fight to the extremes.

2. CPD Administrator

We understand that the implementation of the amended Medical Regulations 2017 and Medical Act 2012 by the MMC has created a huge impact and confusion among the medical practitioners particularly on the mandatory 20 CPD points, to be accompanied with indemnity insurance

for the renewal of Annual Practicing Certificate (APC). MMA is actively working on facilitating the doctors on CPD matters and to ensure that all the processes will be made easier instead of burdening the profession.

MMA, as one of the CPD administrators, has Tan Sri Dato' Dr Abu Bakar Suleiman as our CPD Advisor for the MMA-CPD Committee. An interesting fact is that MMA has developed a Mobile Apps for CPD providers and all registered medical practitioners be it members or non-members for their ease and convenience. This is part of our "Corporate Social Responsibility" to the medical fraternity. Our goal is to automate the system so that registered participants can check their accrued CPD points easily and in real time. The capabilities of this Mobile Apps include the following:

- i. Registration of non-members
- ii. Registration of CPD providers
- iii. Process applications for accreditation of educational events by providers
- iv. Record attendance instantaneously during educational activities (swipe profile QR Code)

We will go electronic. However, for those whose requirement needs to be manual, it will be made available by the MMA.

MMA is also in the process of linking ADHOC CPD to the Mobile Apps which is meant for overseas conferences and online CPD modules only.

Doctors can also apply for Medical Indemnity Insurance through MMA by joining either the Medical Protection Society (MPS) or Medical Practitioners Indemnity (MPI).

This service is provided to both members and non-members without any fee. MMA is doing this for the medical profession. If there is concern on how the members are getting less privileges as compared to non-members, fear not and rest assured, we shall give back to our members in some other form. We will never forsake the exclusive privileges and extensive range of benefits that a member of this esteemed organisation can obtain.

Based on our outstanding records and achievements, you are assured that MMA's credibility as a CPD administrator is in a position of unchallenged supremacy.

3. HELPDOG

MMA is constantly working on helping you even in the darkest of time without being judgemental. On the 26 August 2017, MMA launched a support group for doctors called 'HELPDOG', to act as

a safety net for many issues faced by doctors in Malaysia. This is intended to enable doctors to air their grievances especially those who feel harassed at work and being bullied at work. This phone service is accessible to doctors at all levels of seniority. The response that we received so far has been exceedingly acceptable.

Please contact 03-4041 1140 for this service.

4. Safeguarding the Future of the Medical Graduates

MMA's anguish for the new medical graduates is immense. The waiting time for employment as House-Officers is still at 9-12 months now. We hope that there will be good news soon so that the waiting time can be reduced.

MMA is also very concerned about the situation with surplus doctors and the uncertainty that awaits them. Our young medical graduates are facing placement problems. It is a fact that we have an oversupply of medical graduates and insufficient training positions in our hospitals. We believe that entry requirements for medical universities and colleges need to be improved.

Apart from continuously trying to seek solutions for the above concerns, MMA has established a program called 'Mentor-Mentee.'

This Mentor-Mentee Program serves as a platform for doctors waiting for housemanship to keep abreast with their medical knowledge through attachment to a clinic near their homes. We are in the process of acquiring all names for the mentors and mentees and this will be done on a voluntary basis and no payment is involved for both mentor and mentee.

There is a curriculum being developed to act as guidelines for the training, running up to 20 weeks at a time.

MMA is very concerned about the future and ever-growing problems faced by young doctors. It is the responsibility of the senior doctors to show them the way to improve and safeguard the standard of ethics and professionalism. This is what we do to strive towards maintaining the standards of excellence in medical practice. Further, we are looking at ways and possibilities these young doctors may be employed if they have no interest in clinical medicine. In January 2021, when the first batch of contract doctors complete their contract, there will be doctors who may not be employed by the Ministry of Health. We need to show them the path for other options that may be available.

5. Protect our doctors

MMA is keen in protecting doctors from any abuse by public, patients or any other parties. We can agree to the fact that usage of the social media now has become massive and with many cases that went viral on social media. It is easy to tell that the public seem to view social media as a platform to express their dissatisfaction towards several issues. Social media is often used as a medium to voice whatever thoughts they have in mind pertaining to any issue, however it does not necessarily depict the truth or lead to a positive outcome. The same situation goes to the patient-doctor relationship whereby doctors are often exposed to social media abuse.

MMA has always been concerned when doctors are abused wrongly and would take necessary action to prevent the issue from getting worse. However, this does not mean that MMA is protecting doctors blindly, patients do have their right to complain if they have been mistreated or misled by the doctors. There are several grievous mechanisms for patients to channel their complaints including the Ethics Committee of the MMA, and the MOH and MMC.

6. Privileges

On the light side, MMA has negotiated with several organisations for exclusive discounts and deals for members. Our travel partner AIR ASIA is available for all members. Please contact MMA for your user name and password to avail yourself of this privilege. Many hotels have agreed to give our MMA members special room rates. Other privileges include travel discounts with travel agencies, purchase of motor vehicles, insurance for life and general, and many more.

Conclusion

MMA is always concerned about producing the best quality of doctors in Malaysia. As of now, the Association has been providing services and programs that are undeniably beneficial for the betterment of the profession. We are aware that the expectation for the association will go higher from time to time and that is why MMA has continuously embarked on services and programmes that we believe are instrumental in safeguarding the present and future of the medical profession in Malaysia.

What else can MMA do for you?????