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PPSMMA Updates

We have attended more than 50 official meetings representing PPSMMA. We have engaged in various activities be it Policy or Trade issues concerning doctors in private practice. We are towards the tail end in sorting out issues with third party administrators. The minutes of the meetings with TPAs can be extracted from our website under PPSMMA.

Antimicrobial Resistance, is an issue that will be detrimental in treating infections in the coming future if the unchecked excessive usage of antibiotics is not curbed. This has become a global issue. PPSMMA is playing an active role in the Antimicrobial Stewardship program in collaboration with MoH.

The primary goal of the antimicrobial stewardship is to optimise clinical outcomes while minimising unintended consequences of antimicrobial use, including toxicity, the selection of pathogenic organisms and the emergence of resistance. We organised a GP Seminar on Antibiotic Awareness in collaboration with MSIDC (Malaysia Society of Infectious Disease & Chemotherapy) in Dec 2015. We also participated in the *Mesyuarat Perbincangan Penyediaan National Action Plan On Antimicrobial Resistance* in March 2016 at Port Dickson.

FOMEMA and **UKAS** have been shying away from engaging with us, thus, we are planning to get the Ministry of Health involved in a forum to address this outstanding issue in the near future. Even *Koperasi Doktor Malaysia* (KDM) who is the minority shareholder is in support of the price increase for the medical examination and chest x-ray fees.

One major issue that has been plaguing GPs is the controversial issue surrounding the **Third Party Administrators (TPAs)** of which the main six principles behind the engagement are focusing on the interest and welfare of patients, MCO guidelines, MMC Code of Professional Conduct, Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act(13th Fee Schedule), good business practice and good medical practice.

Among the issues addressed in the engagement were the registration of patients, submission of claims, payments by TPAs, service contracts/agreements, consultation fees based on the 13th Fee Schedule (PHFSA) for GPs which is between RM30-RM125 soon to be amended into the 7th Fee Schedule together with the procedures fees, medicines and to form a grievance mechanism involving both the major associations, TPAs/MCOs, *Amalan* and MMC. The TPAs representatives have been positive and agreed in principle to resolving these outstanding issues.

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Pharmacy Bill, is now at the Attorney General's Chamber. We were promised a re-engagement before being tabled to the Parliament in October 2016 during the RUUF Stakeholders Engagement which was held in Nov 2015 at Port Dickson. MMA together with 7 other associations, including Dental & Veterinary colleagues have reiterated our stance of NO to Dispensing Separation and NO to mandatory prescription. We would like to bring to your attention an important commitment from PSD namely:

1. The promise by Pharmaceutical Services Department officials, Ministry of Health that a second round of engagements will be organised after the draft bill was discussed with your good self before the Bill would be sent to the Attorney Generals Chambers.
2. That there will be a proper and open Public Online Engagement subsequently before the Bill is tabled in Parliament.

We would like to express our gratitude for the support that we have received from MMA office bearers, staff and also the members. It was a great year working with Dr Ashok Philip as the President and we look forward to working with Dr John Chew if given a mandate.