

## MMA: Private general practitioners' fees should be adjusted by 10pct every three years

By [Mohamad Al As](#) - March 5, 2025 @ 8:21pm



*Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) president Datuk Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira. PIC COURTESY OF MMA*

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has welcomed the government's move to review private clinic consultation fees, calling it a long-overdue adjustment after more than three decades.

"The current RM10 to RM35 consultation fee range was originally proposed by MMA in 1992 before being incorporated into the 7th fee schedule of the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act in 2006.

"However, there has been no adjustment since 1992, despite every other product and service seeing multiple increments," said MMA president Datuk Dr Kalwinder Singh Khaira in a statement today.

Moving forward, MMA proposed that consultation fees be reviewed at regular intervals based on economic factors and inflation.

The association suggested a structured review every three years with adjustments of around 10 per cent in line with an annual inflation rate of approximately three per cent.

"MMA hopes the government will make a fair, data-driven decision that supports both patient care and the sustainability of private general practitioner (GP) clinics. Ensuring a well-functioning primary care system is key to strengthening Malaysia's healthcare system as a whole," Kalwinder said.

MMA stressed that operational costs for private clinics have risen exponentially over the past 33 years, with many struggling to cope with higher expenses for staff salaries, rentals, utilities and equipment.

The association noted that stagnant consultation fees have forced many clinics to shut down in recent years.

"This is not about imposing a sudden price hike but ensuring a fair and sustainable adjustment that reflects the reality of operating costs while maintaining affordability for patients," Kalwinder said.

He also said strengthening private GP clinics as the first point of care would help reduce overall healthcare costs by improving patient referrals and reducing unnecessary hospital visits.

MMA also highlighted the disparity between GP consultation fees and those of medical officers in private hospital emergency departments, which were set at RM30 to RM125 in 2013.

"In 2015, the Health Ministry acknowledged that GP consultation fees should be aligned with this range, yet implementation was delayed due to non-technical reasons and never carried out," Kalwinder said.

MMA recently engaged with the ministry, which informed them that the government is working with the Department of Statistics Malaysia to conduct a simulation on the Consumer Price Index for the recommended private GP consultation fees.

MMA urged the government to consider the historical context and the rising cost of operating a clinic while ensuring access to affordable primary care services.

A major concern raised by MMA was the role of third-party administrators (TPAs) as 65 per cent of urban patients receive healthcare benefits through corporate arrangements.

"Many GPs are tied to TPA contracts that impose high administrative fees and fixed low consultation rates, further straining the financial viability of GP clinics," Kalwinder said.

Early today, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the ministry is reviewing consultation fees for private GPs.

He added that the review would consider the impact of any fee adjustments on the Consumer Price Index.