

# MMA backs Khairy's call for 100% increase in healthcare budget

**FMT Reporters**

August 16, 2022 3:40 PM



*Experts have been calling for an increase in healthcare allocations for years. (Facebook pic)*

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has urged the government to increase the healthcare budget to 5% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

MMA president Dr Koh Kar Chai said this was something the government must do if it was sincere about reforming public healthcare.

His statement comes in the wake of health minister Khairy Jamaluddin's call for a 100% increase in healthcare allocations.

Yesterday, Khairy said the current allocation, which amounted to 2.59% of the GDP, had led to complaints, including long waiting times for healthcare services.

He said upper middle-income countries typically allocated 4% to 5% of their GDP for public healthcare.

In his statement, Koh said an increase in health allocations to 5% of the GDP was necessary for the expansion of healthcare services.

“This 5% is the bare minimum needed as we expand our healthcare services as well as improve on the (healthcare) system,” he said.