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8,000 PATIENTS BENEFITTED FROM REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEMS' EFFORTS TO BRING THEIR CARE INTO THE COMMUNITY

The Hospital-to-Home (H2H) programme has supported about 8,000 patients at high risk of repeated hospital admissions in returning home smoothly post-discharge since April 2017. This was shared by Health Minister Mr Gan Kim Yong at the inaugural Global Conference on Integrated Care (GCIC) 2018 this morning. The H2H programme consolidates the previous transitional care programmes offered by hospitals and integrates care provided by Community Care partners to better benefit patients. This programme is currently implemented in public hospitals under all three Regional Health Systems (RHSs) in Singapore and administered by the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC). This is in line with the Ministry of Health's (MOH) focus on delivering better patient care.

2. Prior to the H2H programme, RHSs ran various transitional care programmes for different groups of patients such as frequently admitted patients and seniors with complex care needs. Leveraging synergies between the programmes, the H2H initiative consolidated these efforts to manage patients' needs more holistically, by ensuring that they receive quality care in the community, with greater convenience.

3. "Supporting patients to return home from hospital, faster and better, helps them spend more quality time at home and with their loved ones. We are encouraged that the H2H programme gives greater peace of mind to patients and their families and enables them to return them back to their daily routines and lives at home," shared Dr Jason Cheah, AIC's Chief Executive Officer.

4. Under the H2H programme, RHSs coordinate services such as medical, nursing and social care services at the patient's home after their discharge. Teams from hospitals and Community Care providers comprising doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, case managers, etc. work together to manage the care of patients at their own homes through phone calls and home visits. When patients and caregivers gain more confidence to manage at home, they are then handed over for further support by community care organisations.

5. Mr Choo Kim Sua, 67, was enrolled into the SingHealth H2H programme in April 2017. Due to diabetes, he has multiple medical conditions such as kidney failure and is also a double amputee. An active person who loves the outdoors, Mr Choo's spirits were often low as a result. After his discharge from Singapore General Hospital (SGH), the SingHealth H2H care team followed up with Mr Choo at home and provided services such as home nursing and caregiver support. For instance, they taught his wife and newly hired domestic helper basic caregiving skills, such as how to transfer him safely from bed to wheelchair. They also helped the family with their application for financial assistance. The support provided gave his wife more confidence to look after him at home. In July 2017, they worked with Jamiyah Singapore to refer Mr Choo to community care services such as home and day care near his home, as his condition had stabilised. Mr Choo did not have to return to the hospital, and was able to make a speedy and sustained recovery while remaining in the community.

6. This initiative was among the local and international examples of care integration showcased at the three-day conference organised by AIC. The conference theme, Advance! Accelerating the Integration of Care, drives home the pressing need to transform health and social care systems in preparation for current and future generations. It plays host to more than 1,600 social and healthcare practitioners from 23 countries, with conference delegates hailing from North America, Europe, Australia, Middle East and Asia.

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About the Agency for Integrated Care

The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) seeks to create a vibrant Care Community enabling people to live well and age gracefully. AIC coordinates and facilitates efforts in care integration to achieve the best care outcomes for our clients. We do this by empowering them with health and social care information and arranging for their care when they are discharged from hospitals. We enable stakeholders to raise the quality of care, and also enhance collaboration by working with health and social care providers to increase services to support the ageing population. Our work in the community brings care services and information closer to those in need. For more information, please visit www.aic.sg.