



7 January 2013

Joint Media Release

For Immediate Release

More than 100 frail elderly have benefitted from the Singapore Programme for Integrated Care for the Elderly (SPICE)

1. More than 100 frail elderly have benefitted from the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC)'s Singapore Programme for Integrated Care for the Elderly (SPICE) since its launch in October 2010. The first two SPICE Centres at Salvation Army's Bedok Multi-Service Centre and at Tembusu Rehab and Day Care Centre in Jurong have been running at close to full capacity. Since SPICE began, 60 patients have been enrolled at Salvation Army's Bedok Multi-Service Centre (SA-BMC), and another 44 patients have been enrolled at Tembusu Rehab and Day Care Centre (Tembusu). Presently, there are 33 SPICE patients in SA-BMC and about 31 SPICE patients in Tembusu. Many of these frail elderly in need of nursing home care opted for SPICE to remain in the community close to their loved ones.
2. The number of SPICE patients is expected to increase with the opening of a third SPICE Centre. Located at Ling Kwang Home for Senior Citizens (LKHSC), this new Centre can take up to about 30 patients at any one time. Already, the Centre has received more than 10 applications and has enrolled three patients.
3. SPICE@LKHSC was officially opened today by Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Transport, Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim. This Centre marks the expansion of SPICE to the central region of Singapore. It provides more care alternatives for patients and families and supports the Ministry of Health's (MOH) vision to help our seniors to age in the community.
4. SPICE@LKHSC also marks the first roll-out of SPICE in a nursing home. With its years of experience in running a nursing home, LKHSC is able to leverage on its existing resources and expertise to efficiently deliver care services for its SPICE patients. This makes it more

attractive for patients who are currently in the nursing home to consider SPICE as a care option. This option enables them to return home every evening and age gracefully in the community.

5. Chief Executive Officer, Ling Kwang Home for Senior Citizens, Mr Dennis Tan said, “Ling Kwang Home is excited to be expanding its nursing home care services to include a SPICE Centre. Under the programme, our elderly are able to continue living at home with their loved ones after receiving professional care at our Centre during the day. Through SPICE we aim to prolong the rate of functional independence of the elderly to keep them in the community as long as possible. We also strive to promote a high standard of nursing services to reduce the frequency of hospital re-admissions. The services our SPICE Centre will provide comprise nursing and medical care, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social care, and pastoral care. This complements our existing services. The synergy of professional services provided by SPICE and our nursing home will ensure an efficient delivery of care for our patients. Most importantly, SPICE will generate hope for our residents who might want to return home to their loved ones, knowing that they can still receive professional nursing care from us.”

6. Partnering LKHSC and AIC in the roll-out of this SPICE Centre are Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), Ren Ci Community Hospital, and Ang Mo Kio – Thye Hua Kwan Hospital (AMK – THK). The hospitals will identify and assess patients' eligibility for the SPICE programme, and SPICE@LKHSC will help address the high demand for nursing homes by TTSH's patients.

7. To ensure best care for patients enrolled in SPICE@LKHSC, a TTSH physician will regularly visit the Centre to monitor the health of the patients. TTSH will also provide specialised training to expand the capabilities of the nurses, if requested by the home. SPICE patients will be attended by a multi-disciplinary team which includes medical, nursing and allied health professionals, led by a case manager. These healthcare professionals will customize a care plan for each patient to meet their needs and to enable them to remain with their family and loved ones in the community.

8. Head and Senior Consultant, Department of Continuing and Community Care, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Dr Ian Leong said, “We have worked with Ling Kwang Home for Senior Citizens closely over the years. Their enthusiasm and expertise has allowed us to work together to provide end-of-life care within the nursing home, and to manage increasingly complex patients

within the home. With SPICE, through our collective skills and resources, we will be able to provide care for a rather frail group of people in the comfort and familiarity of their own homes, who would otherwise have had to leave the familiarity of their own home and be admitted to a nursing home.”

###

For media enquiries, please contact:

Chong Yi Han (Mr)
Executive
Corporate & Marketing Communications
Agency for Integrated Care (AIC)
DID: 66036992
Mobile: 98367101
Email: yihan.chong@aic.sg

About the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC)

The Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) is set up by the Ministry of Health (MOH) to oversee, coordinate and facilitate all efforts in care integration. Our mission is to achieve best health outcomes for our patients by empowering clients and coordinating access to appropriate care, enabling stakeholders to strengthen the primary care, intermediate and long-term care and community mental health sectors, and enhancing collaboration to create a well-connected healthcare system. For more information, please visit www.aic.sg.

About Ling Kwang Home for Senior Citizens (LKHSC)

Ling Kwang Home for Senior Citizens started as a retirement home and the foundation stone was laid by then Minister of Defence and Second Minister for health Mr Goh Chok Tong, on 26 February 1983. It was officially opened on 31 December 1983 by the late Dr Tay Eng Soon, former Minister of State for Education. Initially the residents were mobile and would leave the home after breakfast for their own activities. Over the years, they gradually started to deteriorate and required nursing care. On 3 January 2004, then Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Tony Tan, opened our second extension.

Today, Ling Kwang Home For Senior Citizens is a 350 bedded nursing home, guided by Christian principles and values. Under MOH subvention, it provides nursing, dementia, dental and palliative care. 90 per cent of the residents are referred via the Agency for Integrated Care. Ling Kwang Home also runs a social day care with rehabilitation programme for about 40 clients. where a part time residential doctor provides medical care for the residents.