



Singapore National Eye Centre

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Media Release

For Immediate Release

Singapore National Eye Centre and Agency for Integrated Care join hands to provide Ophthalmic Skills Training to improve eye care for elderly in community-based care settings

Singapore, 9 December 2013 – Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC) and the Agency for Integrated Care (AIC) have collaborated for the first time to introduce an Ophthalmic Skills Training workshop for nurses and nursing aides from community-based care settings. The workshop will better equip these healthcare professionals with relevant skills and knowledge to care for the elderly's eyes and eye conditions. The workshop is organised by the AIC Learning Institute (LI). The first workshop was held in November 2013. A second session was held today.

Comprising four hours of theory sessions and four hours of practicum, the one-day workshop is recommended for Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses and Nursing Aides. Participants validate the skills by demonstration of the techniques they learn.

Some of the topics taught at the workshop include the anatomy and physiology of the eye and common age-related eye diseases and treatments such as Dry Eyes, Cataract, Glaucoma and Diabetic Retinopathy, which are some of the most common causes of visual impairment. Such eye conditions can greatly affect the independence of the elderly and be a major cause of falls and injuries. Other skills such as eye-cleaning techniques and eye vision testing are also taught during the workshop.

“At SNEC, we recognise the strong need to reach out to our ageing community at community-based care settings such as a nursing home. Together with AIC, we are confident that the Ophthalmic Skills Training workshop will enhance the skills of these healthcare professionals to be able to better care for our elderly. Based on feedback received, we will improve the

content even further to benefit the healthcare professionals and eventually the elderly,” said SNEC Director of Nursing, Ms Low Siew Ngim.

There are now more than 60 nursing homes and 9,600 nursing home residents across the island, comprising primarily elderly residents who can benefit from this initiative.

Ms Soon Kuan Bee, a registered nurse at Lee Ah Mooi Old Age Home and a participant from the first run of the training said, “The knowledge and skills gained from the Ophthalmic Training Workshop increased my understanding of eye care for elderly patients, which has proven to be very useful in my work. I am now better skilled and more confident in observing the symptoms for eye conditions among the elderly as well as the steps to take to help them recover well.”

Chief Executive Officer of AIC, Dr Jason Cheah said, “Maintaining good eye care and healthy vision are important aspects of care for our elderly in the Community Care sector. AIC is pleased to partner SNEC in creating this Ophthalmic Skills Training workshop for the first time as an opportunity for our Community Care healthcare professionals to continually upgrade their knowledge and skills on eye care for the elderly. Such joint collaborations on knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices are important means to achieve best care outcomes for our elderly, and in this instance, to raise their quality of life, independence and personal safety through better sight.”

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About Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC)

Singapore National Eye Centre (SNEC) was incorporated in 1989 and commenced operations in 1990. It is the designated national centre within the public sector healthcare network, and spearheads and coordinates the provision of specialised ophthalmological services with emphasis on quality education and research.

Since its opening in 1990, SNEC has achieved rapid growth and currently manages an annual workload of 275,000 outpatient visits, 28,000 major eye surgeries and laser procedures.

Ten subspecialties in Cataract, Corneal and External Eye Disease, General Cataract and Comprehensive Ophthalmology, Glaucoma, Neuro-Ophthalmology, Oculoplastic and Aesthetic Eyeplastic, Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus, Refractive Surgery, Ocular Inflammation and Immunology and Vitreo-Retina have been established to provide a full range of eye treatment from comprehensive to tertiary levels for the entire spectrum of eye conditions.

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 care outcomes for our patients 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.

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