

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 7
RUANGAN : NATION

THE STAR M/S7 NATION 18/2/2025 (SELASA)

Bring the jabs to their door

Most seniors in nursing homes unfit to travel for vaccination

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PETALING JAYA: The Health Ministry has been urged to reach out to the elderly, who are not mobile and in poor health, for the flu vaccination programme, which starts today.

Nursing home operator Eugene Wong Sai Kong, who applauded the exercise for those aged 60 and above, said a large number of residents at senior care facilities suffer from various health issues that have rendered them immobile.

"About 95% of the 250 residents at our nursing homes are not fit to travel to be vaccinated.

"Their poor mental health also impedes their ability to use a smartphone to register for the programme via MySejahtera.

"There should be no need to register and any Malaysian above 60 should be eligible to receive the jab.

"We hope the Health Ministry will dispatch mobile clinics to

carry out the exercise at all nursing homes," he said in an interview.

Prison Fellowship Malaysia executive director Prem Kumar said the flu vaccination exercise should also be extended to prisoners nationwide as they are among those who are most vulnerable to contracting the bug.

"All prisons have clinics and registered doctors. The vaccination should be opened for all prisoners, especially those in their 60s," said the founder of the Sabah-based non-governmental organisation that assists ex-convicts reintegrate with society.

National Patriot Association president Lt-Col (Rtd) Datuk Zarazilah Mohd Ali said flu cases have become increasingly common in recent weeks and initiatives to counter the situation are welcome.

However, he said some members of the organisation were cautious of the vaccine after news reports of alleged side effects.



"We hope the Health Ministry will come forward with a clearer explanation so that people are convinced and confident of receiving the vaccine," he said.

Santok Singh, of the Golden Peacock Nursing Home in Penang, said the ministry should

visit care homes for the elderly to administer flu jabs, adding that with the experience from Covid-19, it is important to get them vaccinated.

"Many are not mobile and bed-ridden," he said.

Association for Residential Aged Care Operators of Malaysia president Delren Terrence Douglas said the ministry had conducted mobile Covid-19 vaccination programmes.

"Why not do the same thing again? They would have the same list of registered centres and charity homes to get the elderly vaccinated," he said.

The majority of residents either have dementia, are immobile or have no relatives, he added.

Delren also said MySejahtera may not be a convenient means of registration as some may have deleted the app, may need access to a phone to use the app or would need help from others to register.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (pic) said the flu vaccination for senior citizens is currently offered at health clinics by appointment only.

"The influenza vaccination for at-risk senior citizens will commence on Feb 18, 2025.

"Vaccination is entirely voluntary, requiring seniors to apply for it.

"Currently, the Health Ministry is offering the vaccine to senior citizens by appointment at selected health clinics only," he said in response to a query from *The Star*.

On Feb 10, Dzulkefly announced the expansion of the Influenza Immunisation Programme, which was launched in 2006, to cover not only front-line healthcare workers but also senior citizens aged 60 and above with at least one chronic illness.

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA

MUKA SURAT : 1

RUANGAN : MUKA DEPAN

UM M/S 1 MIN 18/2/2025 (SEL)

Tiada dasar baharu berkaitan dokter pakar

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PETALING JAYA: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menegaskan tiada dasar atau garis panduan baharu yang dipinda menerusi Akta Perubatan 1971 (Akta 50) berkaitan tempoh pengesahan doktor pakar ketika ini.

Pindaan terhadap Akta Perubatan 1971 (Akta 50) kepada Akta Perubatan (Pindaan) 2024 (Akta A1729) masih belum dikuatkuasakan.

Ketua Pengarah Kesihatan, Datuk Dr. Muhammad Radzi Abu Hassan menegaskan, dakwaan bahawa KKM mewajibkan tempoh pengesahan doktor pakar sehingga 18 bulan dan pegawai perubatan menerima kurang daripada separuh gaji yang sepatutnya adalah tidak benar.

Beliau berkata, kajian mengenai penyelarasan elaun Bayaran Insentif Pakar (BIP) kini berada di peringkat akhir untuk diselarikan dengan lunas undang-undang.

"Sebarang keputusan mengenainya akan diumumkan secara rasmi setelah dimuktamadkan dengan agensi-agensinya pusat.

"Sebarang perubahan penyelarasan elaun ini juga hanya akan terpakai kepada pengamal yang tamat latihan kepakaran selepas Akta A1729 dikuatkuasakan," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Bersambung di muka 2

AKHBAR : UTUSAN MALAYSIA
MUKA SURAT : 2
RUANGAN : DALAM NEGERI

Um m/s 2 D/Neu 18/2/2025 (SELASA)
Tiada dasar baharu berkaitan doktor pakar

Dari muka 1

Sebelum ini, *Utusan Malaysia* melaporkan, dasar baharu Kementerian Kesihatan yang mewajibkan tempoh pengesahan sebagai doktor pakar sehingga 18 bulan berbanding enam bulan sebelum ini disifatkan tidak adil dan satu eksploitasi terhadap golongan itu.

Lanjutan tempoh itu terkandung dalam garis panduan yang dipinda menerusi Akta Perubatan 1971 (Akta 50) dan Perintah Am, Bab F.

Namun, sepanjang tempoh peralihan itu, pakar diklasifikasikan sebagai pegawai perubatan dan dibayar gaji seperti biasa walaupun mereka menjalankan tugas bertaraf pakar.

Menurut seorang pakar perubatan yang bertugas di salah sebuah hospital Lembah Klang, secara ringkasnya, seorang doktor pakar bedah atau pakar bius yang baru diiktiraf akan menerima gaji yang sama seperti pegawai perubatan junior (sekitar RM5,000-RM7,000 sebulan).

Katanya, walaupun mereka mengendalikan kes-kes rumit, membuat keputusan hidup dan mati serta bekerja dalam keadaan yang amat mencabar, ini bukan sekadar satu tindakan tidak adil, malah ia adalah 'kecurian' gaji yang diinstitusikan.

"Lebih buruk lagi, kerajaan telah menghapuskan tuntutan gaji secara backdated. Ini bermakna, walaupun selepas menamatkan tempoh peralihan selama 18 bulan, pakar-pakar ini tidak akan menerima bayaran sewajarnya untuk tenaga dan kepakaran yang telah mereka sumbangkan.

"Bayangkan bekerja sebagai pakar selama satu setengah ta-

Bantah dasar baharu sahkan doktor pakar

DR. HAZRAT DR. HAZRAT

PUTRABENDU: Dasar baharu Kementerian Kesihatan yang mewajibkan tempoh pengesahan sebagai doktor pakar sehingga 18 bulan berbanding enam bulan sebelum ini disifatkan tidak adil dan satu eksploitasi terhadap golongan itu.

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Tempoh 18 bulan tidak adil, eksploitasi perkhidmatan tanpa bayaran setimpal

Putrabadu, 18 Feb. - Malaya, sepanjang tempoh peralihan itu, pakar diklasifikasikan sebagai pegawai

perubatan yang dibayar gaji seperti biasa walaupun mereka menjalankan tugas bertaraf pakar.

UTUSAN Malaysia
10 Feb. 2025.

“Butiran kecil dalam dasar ini mendedahkan lebih banyak ketidakadilan yang mana pakar bukan sahaja dibayar rendah tetapi terpaksa berhadapan dengan pelbagai halangan birokrasi.”

hun, mereka tidak akan dibayar setimpal dengan kepakaran yang telah dilaksanakan,” katanya.

Kata beliau, butiran kecil dalam dasar ini mendedahkan lebih banyak ketidakadilan yang mana pakar bukan sahaja dibayar rendah tetapi terpaksa berhadapan dengan pelbagai halangan birokrasi yang menyebabkan proses pewartaan mereka tergendala atau terbatal.

Sebagai contoh katanya,

seorang doktor yang mengambil cuti lebih daripada 15 hari (termasuk cuti sakit atau cuti bersalin) boleh mengganggu garis masa pewartaan, menyebabkan tempoh pewartaan dilanjutkan atau dimulakan semula.

Ini bermakna seorang pakar yang jatuh sakit atau mengambil cuti bersalin mungkin terpaksa melalui tempoh peralihan yang lebih lama dan tetap menerima gaji status pegawai perubatan.

Pada masa sama, katanya, calon pakar yang membuat rayuan penempatan akan menghadapi kelewatan pengesahan pakar tanpa kepastian, di mana tarikh pewartaan mereka hanya akan dikira secara terkebelakang maksimum enam bulan dari tarikh mereka melapor diri.

Ini menjadikan ramai pakar tersekat dalam jawatan bergaji rendah selama berbulan-bulan atau bahkan bertahun-tahun tanpa mengira sama ada rayuan mereka diterima atau ditolak.

"Seorang pakar juga mesti melengkapkan buku log dan laporan naratif yang dinilai berdasarkan kriteria ketat seperti 'Kemahiran Kepemimpinan', 'Etika' dan 'Kecekapan Klinikal'," katanya.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 3
RUANGAN : NATION

TS M/S 3 NATION 18/2/2025 (SELASA)

Face masks advised for unwell students

NIBONG TEBAL: With flu cases rising due to the weather, students are urged to wear face masks if they feel unwell.

State education director Wan Sajiri Wan Hassan said this is part of a ministry-level initiative to help prevent the spread of illness.

"If students are experiencing flu-like symptoms or cough, they should mask up when attending school as a precautionary measure," he told reporters during the first day of school at SMK Saujana Indah here yesterday.

Wan Sajiri expressed concern over the hot weather, saying a contingency plan for students is

in place.

"The erratic weather has been discussed and students are given the flexibility to wear more suitable clothing if the weather is hot.

"We hope that schools are well prepared for the first week and offer engaging activities to ensure the students have a positive experience," he said.

Wan Sajiri said a total of 235,305 students are starting the 2025/2026 school year across 396 schools statewide.

Of those, 100,681 students are enrolled in secondary schools, 126,608 in primary schools and 8,016 in preschools.

A total of 20,192 pupils have registered for Year One in 269 schools, while 16,814 students are beginning Form One in 127 schools.

"There is an average of 30 to 35 students per classroom.

"Originally, there were schools with two sessions but they have now reverted to one session starting this year," he said.

Earlier, A. Danavalli, 44, was seen dropping her daughter K. Hasbitha, 14, off at school.

"I don't make her wear a mask unless the school requires it.

"I believe there are precautionary measures in place," she said.