

# Day surgery? Go west

## New centre will serve Jurong community's medical needs

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WHERE it would have previously taken Madam Yeo Sar Moey one-and-a-half hours to get to Alexandra Hospital by bus, she is now a mere 15-minute ride away from the new Jurong Medical Centre (JMC).

The 60-year-old retiree, who lives in Jurong West, is due to have cataract surgery on her right eye on Wednesday.

"I was told of this place by the staff at Alexandra Hospital. I like it — it is new, big and facilities are good," she said in Mandarin.

Boasting modern and advanced day surgery equipment, endoscopy services, a chronic disease management centre, x-ray facilities, dental care and eye care services, the Jurong Medical Centre at Jurong West Central 3 was officially opened yesterday.

Built at a cost of \$22 million, the first-of-its-kind centre in Singapore aims to bring specialist care to the Jurong area community.

"JMC will save patients' travelling time and cut down on waiting time for common surgeries," said Dr Tan Cheng Bock, JMC advisory committee chairman and a general practitioner (GP) himself.

He explained that patients need not go to hospitals for day surgery or minor

operations which can be performed at JMC.

"Day surgery performed at the centre will take the load off hospitals," he added.

The centre's management said it hopes to offer patients value for money, with procedural and day surgery fees benchmarked to those of Alexandra Hospital, which manages the JMC.

Some 22 per cent of Alexandra Hospital's patients reside in the Jurong West and Jurong East areas, said the hospital's chief executive officer, Mr Liak Teng Lit.

It is estimated that last year, more than 10,000 of the areas' residents travelled to the Singapore General Hospital, Alexandra Hospital and National University Hospital (NUH) for day surgery services.

JMC will also provide supplementary diagnostics and specialist services to some 70 GPs within a 5km radius. GPs can now utilise its x-ray services, pharmacy, rehabilitation facilities, geriatric medicine and women and children services, said Mr Liak.

The three-storey centre started taking appointments two weeks ago, and can treat about 350 to 400 patients daily. Manned primarily by Alexandra Hospital's staff, JMC has about 50 specialists and nurses.

The centre is also working in partnership with the NUH for its Women and Children Clinic.

It is in talks with Tan Tock Seng Hospital to provide further services.