



News Release

For immediate release

Singapore Cancer Society, Breast Cancer Foundation & National Healthcare Group Diagnostics Jointly Launch a 'Community Mammobus Programme'



***Eligible women need only pay between \$0 and \$35
for a mammogram screening***

Singapore, 31 Jan 2018 – To encourage more women to go for a mammogram screening, Singapore Cancer Society (SCS), Breast Cancer Foundation (BCF), and National Healthcare Group Diagnostics (NHG Diagnostics) are making such screening more affordable by providing funding assistance through a '**Community Mammobus Programme**' starting from 1 February 2018.

Under this joint Programme, SCS and BCF will each contribute a maximum of \$20 per screener, while NHG Diagnostics will provide an additional \$10 if the screener is doing it for the first time through Breast Screen Singapore. This means eligible females aged 50 to 69¹ (at year of birth) will only need to pay anything between \$0 and \$35 for a screening, after

¹ Women who are 40 to 49 years old should discuss with their doctors the benefits and limitations of a screening mammogram for their age group so that they can make informed decisions about breast cancer screening. Women with a family history of breast or ovarian cancer should discuss with their doctor who will be able to advise on the suitable screening frequency.



taking into account government subsidies and other existing mammogram funding schemes. Hence, a female Singapore Citizen can do a mammogram for the 1st time at no cost to her. All mammogram screenings are to be done onboard the NHG Diagnostics Mammobus.

Said **Singapore Cancer Society** Chief Executive Officer Mr Albert Ching, *“With about 30 percent of women diagnosed with late-stage breast cancer², there is an urgency for earlier detection and accessibility to screening. The “Community Mammobus Programme” addresses this urgency. The Mammobus is equipped to reach all corners of our community. It accelerates awareness and empowers more women to tangibly access preventive measures. Detecting breast cancer early often leads to better treatment outcomes and a high chance of survival. We urge women to take charge of their health and get screened regularly, once in every two years.”*

Said Mrs Noor Quek, President of **Breast Cancer Foundation**, *“Having launched Southeast Asia’s first mobile mammography service coined ‘Mammobus’ in year 2000, BCF effectively screened over 22,000 women at subsidised rates from 2000 to 2005. NHGD has since taken over the Mammobus and continues to run it successfully today. Over the years, there has been heightened breast cancer awareness as shown in the 2017 findings of our flagship, nation-wide Situation and Needs Assessment Survey, where 90% of Singaporeans have considered breast cancer to be dangerous. Despite this, close to 30% of the women surveyed have not done any form of breast checks before. Thus, we see the pressing need to enhance the effectiveness of our advocacy efforts in a complementary partnership with SCS and NHGD to bring the “Community Mammobus Programme” targeting first-time screeners amongst other eligible women this year. This is aligned with our strategic plans to deepen community outreach with the message that early detection can save lives and breasts.”*

Welcoming this collaboration, Executive Director of **National Healthcare Group Diagnostics**, Ms Lim Soh Har said, *“In recent years, NHG Diagnostics has moved beyond providing diagnostics services in medical institutions to bringing one-stop screening services within easy reach of eligible women at the workplace and even in the heartlands through our Mammobus. It is our hope that such collaborations with our community partners will help facilitate early screening and detection.”*

² Singapore Cancer Registry Annual Registry Report Trends in Cancer Incidence in Singapore 2011-2015.



Breast cancer is the top cancer killer for women in Singapore³. Each year, about 1,930 women are newly diagnosed with breast cancer and every year, about 420 die from this disease. To-date, every three out of 10 women diagnosed with cancer, has breast cancer. This incidence of breast cancer has more than doubled over the past 40 years, from 24.6 to 65.3 per 100,000 women⁴.

Starting 1 February 2018, the Mammobus will be deployed at various workplaces and community locations island-wide. Please refer to Annex 1 for the list of confirmed deployments. For more enquiries on booking the Mammobus and utilising the “Community Mammobus Programme”, please contact NHGD at 6496 6633 or Email: asknhgd@diagnostics.nhg.com.sg.

Please refer to Annex 2 for Cost of Mammogram under the ‘Mammobus Programme’ and Screening Eligibility.

- End -

For more information, please contact:

Ms Belinda Choo
Senior Manager, Corporate Affairs
Tel: 6421 5853
Email: belinda_choo@singaporecancersociety.org.sg
Singapore Cancer Society

Ms Cheng Ee Shan
Senior Executive, Awareness, Communications & Education
Tel: 6933 4741
Email: eeshan@bcf.org.sg
Breast Cancer Foundation

Ms Clara Poh
Assistant Manager
Tel: 9649 8569
Email: Clara_Poh@diagnostics.nhg.com.sg
National Healthcare Group Diagnostics

³ Singapore Cancer Registry Annual Registry Report Trends in Cancer Incidence in Singapore 2011-2015.

⁴ Singapore Cancer Registry Annual Registry Report Trends in Cancer Incidence in Singapore 2011-2015.



About Singapore Cancer Society (SCS)

Established in 1964, Singapore Cancer Society is a self-funded voluntary welfare organisation which provides patient care services to needy cancer patients through its welfare, hospice home care, financial assistance for cancer treatment and rehabilitation support programmes. In addition, the Society also provides free cancer screening services and promotes cancer awareness and prevention through its public education and community outreach programmes.

About Breast Cancer Foundation (BCF)

Breast Cancer Foundation (BCF) is a non-profit organisation with the mission to eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease. Set up in 1997, BCF is committed to raising awareness about breast cancer through talks, events and publications that advocate early detection through regular screening, as well as supporting survivors and their families through various befriending and training activities. As one of the few advocacy groups in the world with a Men's Support League that was integrated with Caregiver Support Group in year 2017, BCF aims to encourage greater male participation in society's fight against this affliction. For more information, visit www.bcf.org.sg or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

About National Healthcare Group Diagnostics (NHGD)

NHGD is a business division under the National Healthcare Group (NHG). As a leading provider in the primary healthcare for one-stop imaging and laboratory service, NHGD supports polyclinics, General Practitioners, community hospitals, nursing homes, home care providers and the community via its extensive network of imaging centres, laboratories, mobile imaging centres and mobile services in Singapore. Over the years, NHGD has grown to deliver more accessible, affordable and quality diagnostics services for the community.

NHGD also provides mobile diagnostics services to support the right-siting of care in the community and homes. The mobile imaging fleet and mobile services are an integral part of Singapore's primary care transformation, enabling patients to have their medical diagnostics examinations and preventive screening tests done nearer their homes, thereby reducing commuting and appointment lead time.

About the Mammobus

NHG Diagnostics' Mammobus is Singapore's first and only mobile mammography screening centre that is accredited under both the Medisave scheme and BreastScreen Singapore (BSS) programme. It brings convenient mammogram service to the door-steps of working ladies and busy housewives. The all-female environment extends comfort and privacy to the participants who will also receive patient education on breast health management and breast self-examination on-board.

Annex 1

Confirmed Deployment of the NHGD Mammobus

No.	Date	Venue / Event	For Enquiries
1	1 to 2 Feb 2018	Community Mammobus Launch @ Realty Centre	6421 8560
2	4 Mar 2018	PAP – Nee Soon Central Branch	-
3	7 Mar 2018	Temasek Polytechnic (TP)	-
4	8 Mar 2018	Bukit Timah Community Club	6466 2912
5	10 Mar 2018	SCS – TalkMed Relay for Life 2018 @ Singapore Sports Hub	rfl@singaporecancersociety.org.sg
6	19 to 23 Mar 2018	Tan Tock Seng Hospital	-
7	24 Mar 2018	National University Cancer Institute 10 th Anniversary Event @ J-Link	-

Annex 2

Cost of mammogram under SCS-BCF-NHGD 'Mammobus Programme'

		Cost of Mammogram (inclusive of 7% GST)	Subsidies and Funding Assistance							Screener To Pay	
			Breast Screen Singapore(BSS) Subsidy	7% GST Absorbed by BSS	SCS's FIT50	MOH's Pioneer Generation	BCF's BEAM15	"SCS-BCF-NHGD Mammobus" Programme			
								SCS	BCF		NHGD
Singapore Citizen	1st Time Screener	107	50	7				20	20	10	0
	Repeat Screener	107	50	7				20	20		10
	50-69 CHAS Cardholder	107	50	7			50				0
	50 Year	107	50	7	50						0
	PG Cardholders (1st Time)	107	50	7		25		7.5	7.5	10	0
	PG Cardholders (Repeat)	107	50	7		25		7.5	7.5		10
Permanent Resident	1st Time Screener	107	25	7				20	20	10	25
	Repeat Screener	107	25	7				20	20		35
Non Singapore Citizen or Permanent		107									107



Who should screen? (Eligibility)

- Singaporean or Permanent Resident
- Woman aged 50* years and above and have not had a mammogram in the past 24 months
- Woman who has not breastfed for the past 6 months
- Not pregnant
- No breast implants
- No history of breast cancer
- Women who have not experience any breast cancer symptoms such as breast lumps, changes in size or shape of breast, recent history of nipple retraction, bloody nipple discharge, itch and rash on nipple, skin redness or skin sore on the breast

**Women aged 40 to 49 years old can screen for breast cancer but they should talk to their doctor about the benefits and limitations of mammograms in this age group so that they can make an informed choice about going for screening.*