

PRESS RELEASE

Beyond Blueprints: Redefining How Hospitals Are Built

At the event *Beyond Blueprints: Redefining Hospital Design*, MOH Holdings (MOHH) launched the Healthcare Facility Design Standards (HFDS), Singapore's first national framework for planning, designing, and building healthcare spaces across the public healthcare system. This framework allows for greater speed, efficiency, and consistency in the construction and maintenance of our public healthcare institutions as Singapore enters a phase of rapid public healthcare infrastructure expansion.

The event, graced by Minister for Health and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies Mr Ong Ye Kung, marked a significant milestone in the nation's healthcare infrastructure journey. Developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH), public healthcare clusters, regulators, consultants, contractors and industry experts, HFDS brings together key stakeholders to shape Singapore's public healthcare infrastructure, from concept to completion.

HFDS is one of the three core pillars that streamlines the hospital delivery process:

1. **Healthcare Facility Design Standardisation** - HFDS accelerates design processes, makes construction more predictable, and improves cost effectiveness.
2. **Early Contractor Involvement** - ECI brings the contractor in early to improve buildability and cost efficiency, and also identifies risks, minimises reworks and creates a more collaborative, predictable project outcome.
3. **Streamlined Project Review Process** - The approach will help shorten project review timelines, enabling expedited approvals to allow construction to commence earlier.

The HFDS framework ensures that facilities are designed with flexibility and optimised layouts to maximise space efficiency and support workflow-driven care delivery. While the framework gleans from past projects, it will be continually reviewed and updated to keep it current with evolving models of care and technology.

HFDS is supported by regular reviews and a defined governance structure. This ensures consistent adherence to the standards during planning, design and construction, with room for adjustments based on site requirements. The framework establishes a unified foundation of design standards, representing a step-change in how Singapore builds public healthcare infrastructure, enabling faster, more coordinated, and more efficient project delivery. By standardising core design elements and processes, the framework improves project efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and overall quality.

For consultants, HFDS accelerates design phases, improves documentation and streamlines stakeholder reviews. For contractors, it enhances construction productivity by improving buildability, enabling prefabrication and reducing design deviations. With

standardisation and bulk procurement, upcoming projects seek to achieve cost savings through economies of scale.

For clinicians and patients, HFDS ensures familiar, functional and safe environments that support care and healing. The standardised layouts will improve clinical safety and infection control. While each facility will retain its own unique identity, the shared foundation of HFDS ensures that every new hospital can be designed better, built better and maintained most cost-effectively.

Mr Kelvin Wong, CEO of the Building and Construction Authority (BCA), noted “HFDS represents an important first step towards achieving higher productivity in Singapore’s healthcare projects through greater standardisation. In line with the Built Environment Industry Transformation Map, BCA has been working with Government Procuring Entities (GPEs) to accelerate standardisation efforts across the sector and are encouraged to see this extended to the healthcare typology. As an early adopter, MOHH’s approach demonstrates how consistent design standards can enhance quality, safety and adaptability. To further maximise productivity gains, the industry should look to advancing standardisation through the Kit-of-Parts approach.”

Mr Zheng Tan, Director of Medical Planning at SJ Healthcare, said “This milestone framework amalgamates years of experience and learnings from designing and delivering healthcare facilities across MOHH, consultants, and specialists. Using HFDS as the common foundation, we are able to elevate the quality of care, delivering more efficient and reliable outcomes. Architects can now devote more time enhancing the patient and staff experience — such as creating spaces with better natural light and airflow, improved wayfinding, and a more intuitive flow of movement.”

Tengah General and Community Hospital (TGCH) is the first project to fully adopt HFDS. Already, there has been time savings in the design process. With early contractor involvement and compression of project review processes, TGCH is envisioned to take about seven years to build, an improvement over the ten years it took to build Woodlands Health Campus. This streamlined approach will guide upcoming projects including the Tan Tock Seng Medical Tower and the redevelopment of National University Hospital at Kent Ridge.

A/Prof Victor Koh, Pro-Tem Chief Executive Officer, TGCH, shared “HFDS has helped us translate planning principles into practical benefits on the ground. By applying consistent layouts and evidence-based design standards, we will be able to enhance the patient journey and delivery of care, staff orientation, and support safer workflows.”

As a living framework, HFDS will continue to evolve, incorporating ongoing learning, collaboration and innovation to deliver world-class healthcare environments for Singapore.

- END -

About MOH Holdings

MOH Holdings (MOHH) is the holding company of Singapore's public healthcare clusters including the National University Health System, NHG Health, and Singapore Health Services. Our role is to enhance public healthcare sector performance by unlocking synergies and economies of scale. Our strategies aim to drive optimal performance through sector-level initiatives and addressing system-level gaps. We are building new healthcare facilities like tertiary hospitals, community hospitals and polyclinics to meet the needs of Singaporeans. We also manage the Ministry of Health's scholarships that form a critical talent pipeline for the healthcare sector.

For media queries, please contact:

Crystal Chan (Ms)

Assistant Manager
Strategic Communications and Marketing Division
MOH Holdings
Contact: 9327 3630
Email: crystal.chan.yh@mohh.com.sg

Tan Yun (Ms)

Assistant Director
Strategic Communications and Marketing Division
MOH Holdings
Contact: 9748 8504
Email: yun.tan@mohh.com.sg