

AKHBAR : SINAR HARIAN

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

Sinar Harian m/s 12 Nasional 5/5/2025 (Isnin)

Saringan kesihatan paru-paru guna AI

KKM perkenal inisiatif tingkat pengesanan penyakit peringkat awal

PUTRAJAYA

Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) memperkenalkan inisiatif saringan kesihatan paru-paru menggunakan teknologi Kecerdasan Buatan (AI) dalam usaha mengesan penyakit berkaitan paru-paru dalam kalangan rakyat Malaysia di peringkat awal.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, perkara itu antara usaha utama dalam Inisiatif Kesihatan Paru-Paru Kebangsaan 2025-2030 diperkenalkan KKM sebagai usaha memperkukuh aktiviti pencegahan, saringan dan rawatan penyakit tersebut.

Beliau berkata, penggunaan teknologi AI dalam saringan dilihat memberi impak keberkesanan dan ketepatan yang lebih tinggi berbanding saringan menggunakan x-ray.

"Dengan keupayaan AI, maka peratus ataupun *incident detection* kita adalah lebih baik," katanya pada sesi taklimat media berhubung Inisiatif Kesihatan Paru-Paru Kebangsaan 2025-2030 di sini pada Ahad.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata, saringan kesihatan paru-paru menggunakan teknologi AI dilaksanakan kepada golongan sasaran di tujuh klinik kesihatan (KK) seluruh negara dengan kos pengaplikasian teknologi itu berpatutan.

Antara klinik kesihatan menawarkan saringan kesihatan paru-paru menggunakan teknologi AI ialah di KK Kok Lanas, KK Kajang, KK Beserah, KK Seberang Perai dan KK Pendang.

"Kita akan dapat pulangan pelaburan, tetapi tidak banyak sangat



Dr Dzulkefly (tengah) ketika sesi taklimat media berhubung Inisiatif Kesihatan Paru-Paru Kebangsaan 2025-2030 pada Ahad.

cuma RM70,000 untuk tujuh klinik dan itu sangat berbaloi kerana jangkitan itu kita dapat kesan awal," katanya.

Dr Dzulkefly berkata, Inisiatif Kesihatan Paru-Paru Kebangsaan merupakan satu pendekatan baharu kerana ia menggabungkan kawalan kedua-dua penyakit berjangkit dan tidak berjangkit serta faktor risiko.

"Penyakit paru-paru di Malaysia merangkumi kedua-dua penyakit tidak berjangkit dan penyakit berjangkit. Ini termasuk kanser paru-paru, Penyakit Penghalang Pulmonari Kronis (COPD), asma dan jangkitan saluran pernafasan seperti pneumonia, tuberkulosis, Covid-19 dan influenza," katanya.

Beliau berkata, inisiatif baharu itu juga akan beri tumpuan kepada faktor risiko utama termasuk merokok, pendedahan kepada pencemaran di alam sekitar dan pendedahan kepada faktor pekerjaan di tempat kerja.

"Integrasi ini akan menggabungkan usaha secara holistik melibatkan pelbagai sektor termasuk kerajaan, swasta, badan bukan kerajaan dan badan profesional.

"Saya ingin menegaskan kesihatan paru-paru merupakan aspek penting dalam kesejahteraan rakyat dan pembangunan negara," katanya.

Dalam perkembangan lain katanya, tahap pematuhan terhadap

Perintah Kawalan Harga dan Anti Pencatutan (Penandaan Harga Ubat) 2025 yang mula dikuatkuasakan pada 1 Mei lepas memuaskan.

Beliau sekali lagi menegaskan tiada denda atau kompaun akan dikenakan terhadap farmasi dan klinik swasta dalam tempoh tiga bulan sekiranya gagal melaksanakan pemaparan ubat.

"Tiga bulan diperlukan bagi semua pihak untuk lebih jelas dan lebih tahu mengenai hal terkait serta bagaimana untuk membuat paparan ubat.

"Saya sempat ke tiga farmasi dan klinik swasta semalam (Sabtu) dan mereka menunjukkan kepada saya kaedah yang mereka gunakan untuk paparan ubat termasuk dalam bentuk kod respons pantas (QR)," katanya.

Sementara itu beliau berkata, Malaysia akan mengemukakan resolusi Inisiatif Kesihatan Paru-Paru ke peringkat global melalui Perhimpunan Kesihatan Kebangsaan ke-78 di Geneva, Switzerland pada bulan ini.

"Malaysia kini mendapat sokongan daripada 14 negara, antaranya Rusia dan China. Kita buat keterlibatan dengan mereka dan negara sebesar Rusia dan China juga bersama kami dalam resolusi itu. Apabila mereka lihat hala tuju kami ... mereka terpenggal untuk bersama Malaysia," katanya lagi.

AKHBAR : HARIAN METRO
MUKA SURAT : 17
RUANGAN : LOKAL

Harian
Bernama

Metro M/S 17 Lokal 5/5/2025 (Isnin)

SARINGAN KESIHATAN PARU-PARU GUNA TEKNOLOGI KECERDASAN BUATAN

Putrajaya

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Antara klinik kesihatan yang menawarkan sari-

ngan kesihatan paru-paru menggunakan teknologi AI ialah di KK Kok Lanas, KK Kajang, KK Beserah, KK Seberang Perai dan KK Pendang.



"Kita akan dapat pulangan pelaburan iaitu pulangan pelaburan kita yang tidak banyak sangat iaitu RM70,000 untuk tujuh klinik dan itu sangat berbaloi kerana jangkitan itu kita dapat kesan awal," katanya.

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"Saya ingin menegaskan bahawa kesihatan paru-paru merupakan aspek penting dalam kesejahteraan rakyat dan pembangunan negara," katanya.

"Dengan keupayaan AI ini, maka peratus ataupun *incident detection* kita adalah lebih baik"

Menteri Kesihatan,
Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES

MUKA SURAT : 5

RUANGAN : NATION

NST m/s Naton 5/5/2025 (Isnin)
PILOT PHASE

NEW AI TOOL TO DETECT LUNG DISEASE

Health Ministry
installing software
at 7 clinics to screen
high-risk groups

MOHAMAD AL AS
PUTRAJAYA
news@nst.com.my

THE Health Ministry has launched a new artificial intelligence-driven X-ray screening for lung disease targeting high-risk groups, with seven government health clinics identified for the pilot phase starting this year.

Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the effort involved the use of advanced technology — X-rays supported by AI and analysed through data analytics to provide higher accuracy.

"Screening is conducted on high-risk groups such as active smokers, those who inhale second-hand smoke, chemical industry workers or those exposed to toxic substances," he said in a

press conference on the Lung Health Initiative Malaysia 2025-2030 here yesterday.

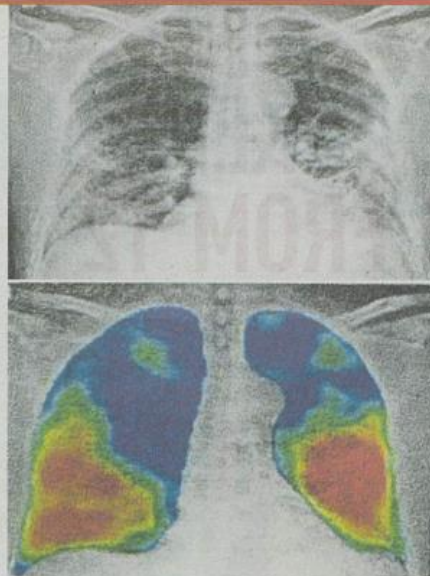
The screening will not only be on the lookout for lung cancer but also Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), asthma and infections, such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, Covid-19 and influenza.

According to the ministry, 26,183 new cases of tuberculosis were recorded last year alone.

On the other hand, asthma affected nearly half a million children aged 6 to 17, and over 1.4 million adults, according to the 2023 National Health and Morbidity Survey.

Lung cancer ranked as the second most common cancer among men and the third among women. Between 2007 and 2023, 25,119 cases were reported, with incidence rates of 8.4 per 100,000 for women and 16.3 per 100,000 for men.

Disease Control Division Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) deputy director Dr Noraryana Hassan said the AI-assisted screenings might pick up the disease at an earlier stage unseen to the naked eye.



(Above) A normal X-ray of lungs with no disease detected.
(Below) An X-ray of the lungs with disease that is detected by the artificial intelligence software. PIC COURTESY OF HEALTH MINISTRY

"With conventional chest X-rays, sometimes our eyes cannot detect small nodules or swellings. With AI technology, we can identify such nodules effectively," she said.

She said participants flagged for concerns would undergo a low-dose CT scan (LDCT) to confirm the findings.

Those identified afterwards would then undergo a biopsy.

The seven clinics were Klinik Kesihatan Seberang Prai (Penang), Klinik Kesihatan Kok Lanas (Kelantan), Klinik Kesihatan Kajang (Selangor), Klinik Kesihatan Luyang (Sabah), Klinik Kesihatan Beserah (Pahang), Klinik Kesihatan Pendang (Kedah) and Klinik Kesihatan Batu 9 Cheras (Kuala Lumpur).

The cost of installing AI software in each clinic is about RM10,000 as a one-off expense.

"The software can be used by other clinics connected to the same system, so there is no need to instal it in every health clinic," said Dr Noraryana.

"This investment is considered minimal compared to the anticipated public health returns."

The Lung Cancer Network Malaysia founding president, Professor Dr Anand Sachithanandan, lauded the move for the AI-assisted chest X-rays for lung disease screening, calling the technology "innovative" and "immensely beneficial".

He said LCNM's experience with AI-enabled chest X-ray imaging for lung cancer screening suggested it could reduce the workload of hospital radiologists, enhance diagnostic accuracy and efficiently triage people with abnormal findings for a more definitive LDCT thorax scan.

MMA: We oppose use of law, not price labelling

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Medical Association said doctors were not against medicine price transparency, but disagreed with the use of the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011 on the recently implemented mandatory price labelling initiative.

The statement came ahead of Tuesday's protest march themed "Doctors Betrayed: The Long Walk to Putrajaya", which is set to take place from the Health Ministry to the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya.

MMA's Private Practitioners Section (PPS) chairman Datuk Dr Parmjit Singh Kuldip Singh said the "symbolic walk" was to voice the medical fraternity's deep disappointment over the use of a non-medical act on the profession.

The march would also voice their frustration over various questions on medicine price display and the general practitioners' consultation fees, a long-standing issue since 1992.

"We wish to reiterate that doctors are not against price transparency, but strongly oppose the act being used on the medical profession," he said.

He said the protest would go ahead as MMA had submitted all documents to inform the authorities about the gathering.

He added that the protest would see a memorandum being handed over to the Prime Minister's Office.

AKHBAR : THE STAR
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATION

4 Nation

THE STAR, MONDAY 5 MAY 2025

The Star mls 4 Nation 5/5/2025 (Isnin)

AI used for screening lungs

Infections in targeted groups can be detected early, says Dzulkefly

PUTRAJAYA: AI-generated lung health screenings are being carried out for targeted groups at seven health clinics nationwide, says Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad (pic).

Among the health clinics offering such screenings are Kok Lanas Health Clinic (Kelantan), Kajang Health Clinic (Selangor), Beserah Health Clinic (Pahang), Seberang Perai Health Clinic (Penang) and Pendang Health Clinic (Kedah).

According to Dzulkefly, the implementation cost is deemed affordable.

"We will see a return on investment, which is not a large sum – just RM70,000 for seven clinics – and it is well worth it as the infections can be detected early," he said at a media briefing on the National Lung Health Initiative 2025-2030 here yesterday, Bernama reported.

The Health Ministry has introduced AI-powered lung health screening to detect lung-related diseases among Malaysians at an early stage.

It is one of the key efforts in the



National Lung Health Initiative 2025-2030 that the ministry has launched to strengthen prevention, screening and treatment for lung diseases.

Dzulkefly said the use of AI in screening can result in greater effectiveness and accuracy compared with the conventional X-Ray.

"With this AI capability, the detection rate is significantly improved."

He added that the initiative represents a novel approach, integrating the control of communicable

and non-communicable diseases and their risk factors.

"Lung diseases in Malaysia encompass both non-communicable and communicable diseases. It includes lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma and respiratory infections such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, Covid-19 and influenza."

Dzulkefly said the new approach would also focus on key risk factors, including smoking, exposure to environmental pollution and workplace-related factors.

The programme will combine the holistic efforts of various sectors, including the government, private sector, NGOs and professional bodies.

Dzulkefly also said that Malaysia will present the Lung Health Initiative resolution at the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva, Switzerland, this month.

He said the country has so far received support from 14 countries, including Russia and China.

Dzulkefly expressed hope that the resolution will win wide approval at the WHA, which will

be held from May 19 to 27.

Separately, he said compliance with the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering (Price Marking for Drug) Order 2025, which came into effect on May 1, has been satisfactory.

The Health Minister reiterated that private healthcare facilities and pharmacies will not face fines or compounds during the initial three-month period if they fail to display the prices of medicines, as the ministry is currently focusing on the education aspect.

"The three-month grace period is intended to give all quarters time to better understand the requirements and how to properly implement the price display measures."

"During recent visits to three pharmacies and private clinics, I was shown various methods being used, including via QR codes," he said.

Dzulkefly expressed hope that all private healthcare facilities would work together with the ministry to ensure the successful implementation of the order.

"I believe everyone will eventually be on board. We will also engage with general practitioners to assist with compliance."

Under the order, all private healthcare facilities and community pharmacies must clearly display the prices of medicines sold, either on shelves, in catalogues or in written price lists.

Regarding the ban on vape product sales in Terengganu, Dzulkefly said he welcomed the move. He said the ministry would continue to strengthen the enforcement and regulation of electronic cigarettes and vape products under the Control of Smoking Products for Public Health Act 2024.

According to reports, the Terengganu government will enforce the statewide ban on vape product sales starting Aug 1.

WATCH THE VIDEO
TheStarTV.com



AKHBAR : THE SUN
MUKA SURAT : 4
RUANGAN : NATIONAL

The Sun m1s4 National 5/5/2025 (ISNIN)

Doctors object to Act 723 use for price labelling move

■ BY HASHINI KAVISHTRI KANNAN
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: Doctors are not against price transparency for medicines but object to the enforcement of the recent mandatory price labelling move under the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering Act 2011 (Act 723), the Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) said in a statement yesterday.

Ahead of the planned march from the Health Ministry to the Prime Minister's Office on Tuesday, titled "Doctors Betrayed: The Long Walk to Putrajaya", MMA Private Practitioners Section chairman Datuk Dr Parmjit Singh Kuldip Singh said the symbolic walk aims to express the medical fraternity's deep disappointment over the application of Act 723 – a law not originally intended for the medical profession.

The march would highlight concerns about the various unanswered questions on the medicine price display and the unresolved issue of stagnant private general practitioner consultation fees, a longstanding issue since 1992.

Parmjit Singh said the protest would go ahead as planned if there are no objections, as MMA has submitted all necessary documents to inform the relevant authorities about the gathering.

He said a memorandum will be handed over to the Prime Minister's Office through a joint effort between the association and other doctors' associations during the march.

Last week, Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad and Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali announced that the mandatory price labelling would take effect on May 1.

They said the move aims to ensure the public can make informed choices when managing their medication expenses.

"This initiative is being introduced in line with the Madani government's commitment to promoting price transparency through the Medicine Price Transparency Mechanism.

"It will be enforced under the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering (Price Marking for Medicines) Order 2025, pursuant to the Price Control and Anti-Profitteering Act 2011 (Act 723)," they said.

The price labelling requirement applies to all medicines for human use, including prescription and non-prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines, traditional remedies, health supplements and extemporaneous preparations.

It covers all private healthcare facilities and community pharmacies regulated under the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998 [Act 586] that sell, supply or administer medicines.

Following this, MMA called for the suspension of the policy's rollout to ensure that the concerns were adequately discussed and resolved.

AKHBAR : NEW STRAITS TIMES
MUKA SURAT : 12
RUANGAN : LIFE & TIMES

NST M/S 12 Life & Times 5/5/2025 (Isnin)

The impact of dengue on women

FOR Hawiah Azit, her battle with severe dengue when she was in her 20s was one of the most traumatic experiences of her life.

"It started with just a fever, then a severe headache for a few days. My parents took me to a clinic near my house and I was only prescribed paracetamol, without any further tests," recalls Hawiah, who's now 45.

She was then just 22 years old and knew little about dengue, so she just took the paracetamol given, drank lots of water and hoped it would pass.

Despite feeling very sick, she travelled to her hometown for a wedding, where her condition worsened and she was eventually diagnosed with dengue at a nearby hospital.

By then, I was bleeding from my nose and gums, and I collapsed in the bathroom. When they transferred me to the hospital, I couldn't even climb onto the bed by myself. My blood platelet levels kept dropping. I had a terrible headache and was shivering so badly I thought I was going to die."

The days that followed were agonising. She kept bleeding. When she drank water, she could see blood in the water bottle and taste it in her saliva.

"After two weeks, I was exhausted — physically and emotionally."

Even after discharge, it was a long time before she regained her strength and appetite.

She used to play volleyball and work out on weekends but having severe dengue changed all that. She could barely eat and felt drained for weeks.

"Now, as a mother and wife, I am constantly worried for my family. I have a 15-year-old daughter, and my husband is a high-risk individual with comorbid conditions, and he has already suffered dengue twice," says Hawiah.

Her experience, she adds, has made her realise the importance of dengue prevention, including dengue vaccination and having adequate knowledge of this infection which plagues Malaysians.

Dengue fever remains a major public health concern in Malaysia, with thousands of cases reported annually. In 2024 alone, there were 122,423 cases and 117 deaths, continuing the upward trend in fatalities since 2021, according to Health Min-

istry data.

The country's tropical climate and rapid urbanisation create ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes, contributing to dengue's persistence and placing individuals at constant risk of infection.

While dengue affects both men and women, emerging insights reveal that women may bear a disproportionate burden of the disease — not just physically, but also socially and economically.

Women are more likely to develop severe dengue and dengue haemorrhagic fever due to physiological fac-



Hawiah Azit faced a horrible battle with severe dengue when she was in her 20s. PICTURE CREDIT: HAWIAH AZIT



Dengue fever remains a major public health concern in Malaysia. PICTURE CREDIT: FREEPIK

tors, says consultant paediatrician Dr Hon Mun Cheng.

"Their immune system tends to mount a stronger response to the virus, leading to higher viral loads and increased inflammation," she adds.

"Women also have lower blood volume, which makes them more susceptible to hypovolemic shock, a dangerous complication of severe dengue."

Dr Hon also highlights the role of capillary leakage in dengue severity among women.

"As women's blood vessels naturally allow more fluid to pass through their walls, they are more prone to bruising and internal bleeding. This is especially concerning for women

who contract severe dengue while menstruating, as they are at risk of excessive bleeding, alongside other symptoms such as abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, mucosal bleeding such as gum and nose bleeds, and plasma leakage.

These factors significantly increase the risk of severe complications, requiring close medical monitoring, especially in women with low platelet counts or anaemia — conditions that are more common in women than in men.

Dr Hon says pregnant women face an even greater risk from dengue which can have serious consequences for both mother and child.

Dengue during pregnancy can

lead to low birth weight, premature birth, stillbirth and an increased risk of maternal death.

The virus can also be transmitted to the baby in the womb, potentially causing severe dengue with haemorrhagic symptoms in the baby.

Beyond the physiological risks, women often carry a heavier social and emotional burden when it comes to dengue.

As primary caregivers in many households, women are responsible for looking after children, elderly parents and sick family members.

However, when they themselves fall ill, they may have limited support or feel compelled to downplay their symptoms to continue their caregiving responsibilities.

"Delaying care can come at a high personal cost as dengue progresses rapidly, and without timely intervention, complications can become life-threatening," says Dr Hon.

The situation can become even more challenging if access to healthcare services is limited by financial constraints, lack of childcare options and other socio-economic factors.

Women from low income groups may lack the means to seek treatment while those in informal employment may face financial difficulties if they are unable to work. This may cause women to delay medical attention, choosing instead to prioritise their families over their own health.

These interconnected factors create a cycle where women are more vulnerable to severe dengue outcomes simply because they struggle to prioritise their health.

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PICTURE CREDIT: DR HON MUN CHENG

