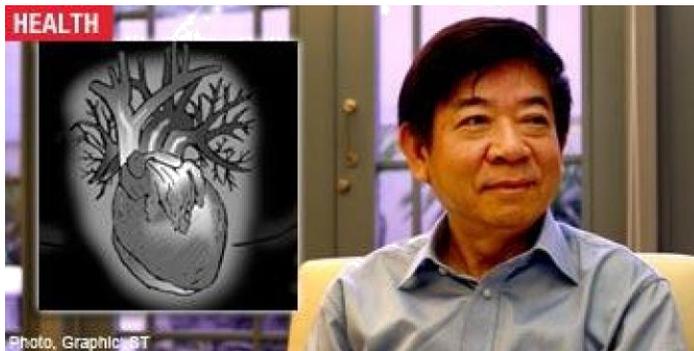


Dr.Mohan Thomas - Cosmetic Surgeon



Wed, Oct 27, 2010

SINGAPORE - Health Minister Khaw Boon Wan paid \$8 for his heart bypass surgery in May.

In his latest blog post Mr Khaw said the surgery was largely covered by MediShield and a private Shield supplement.

"In my recent bypass surgery, my hospital bill was largely paid by MediShield and a private Shield supplement. Medisave took care of my co-payment of the bill.

"My out-of-pocket expense for the hospital bill was \$8 only; yes, no typo here."

He revealed this information when commenting on the importance of health insurance.

"Health insurance, as a protection against hospitalisation (MediShield) and severe disability (ElderShield), is an important pillar of our 3Ms health financing framework.

"It makes sure that all Singaporeans have access to high quality healthcare.

"They are like our umbrellas for rainy days, or thunderstorms, or even typhoons."

According to figures on the Ministry of Health website, heart bypass surgery costs less than \$30,000 for nine in 10 patients staying in an A class ward in National Heart Centre Singapore (NHCS), where Mr Khaw had his operation.

Mr Khaw's comments were made in his recent blog post on the issue of health insurance, where he used his own experience as an example of how health insurance can save patients a substantial amount in out-of-pocket expenses.

He wrote that he had had an informal meeting with all the health insurers on Monday, where ideas on how to improve the system were floated. He noted that there were suggestions in extending MediShield to include mental illness, congenital illness and neonatal treatment, as well as on raising the claim limits on outpatient cancer care.

While no concrete measures were decided upon, Mr Khaw called the discussion a "productive exchange" and said it will "help shape our ideas on what else to do to keep our healthcare umbrellas strong."

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