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ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE HOSPITALS OF MALAYSIA

# MORE ICU BED SPACE THANKS TO PRIVATE HOSPITALS

Govt hospitals sent 1,592 non-Covid-19 patients to private hospitals since Aug 10, says association head

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**T**HE relief at several government hospitals and accessibility to more beds at emergency units can be attributed to private hospitals taking in patients from government medical facilities.

Association of Private Hospitals of Malaysia president Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh yesterday said

since Aug 10, government hospitals had decanted more than 1,592 non-Covid-19 patients to private hospitals in the Klang Valley.

He said the move to refer non-Covid-19 patients to private hospitals for treatment was to provide government hospitals more space to treat Covid-19 cases.

"This has proven to be successful as reports show a decrease in the number of patients waiting for Covid-19 treatment at govern-



Medical frontliners treating a Covid-19 patient at Kuala Lumpur Hospital on Monday. (Inset) Datuk Dr Kuljit Singh. BERNAMA PIC

ment hospitals' emergency departments."

He said this effort to increase space at public hospital wards was done with the internal decanting among public hospitals and increased vaccination in the Klang Valley.

"The Health Ministry's secretary-general, armed forces (health corps), deputy director-general of health (public health) and Association of Private Hospitals Malaysia worked in the entire process of decanting seamlessly.

"All patients received the appropriate treatment at private hospitals according to the cost pre-determined by the ministry."

He said private hospitals gave them additional discounts.

Dr Kuljit said the focus of the decanting effort was Johor.

"All major private hospitals in Johor Baru and Nusajaya are prepared to receive decanted patients from government hospitals as the number of Covid-19 patients has increased in that state."

He said these hospitals would adopt the same process used in the Klang Valley.

However, he added, some private hospitals in the Klang Valley had begun registering fewer private Covid-19 patients in the past week, but the number of patients

requiring respiratory support in the Intensive Care Units (ICUs) remained high.

"The prospect of admitting more categories four and five Covid-19 patients is a challenge in most private hospitals as many of these patients are not recovering fast enough in the limited number of ICUs.

"The vaccination drive has most likely proven its effectiveness based on the slight decrease in the admission of Covid-19 patients in public and private hospitals.

"We hope more people will get vaccinated in the next few months, including those outside the Klang Valley."