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S8-IPS-02: SNAPSHOT OF HEALTH SEEKING BEHAVIOUR AMONG MALAYSIAN

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Rozita Halima Tun Hussein¹, Nordin Saleh¹, Jameela Zainuddin¹, Aziina Abu Bakar¹, Davis Johnraj¹ Zainab Shamdo³, Tan Ee Hong², Siti Haniza Mahmud³, Adjitus Mansur³, Faruqi Uzair Mohamed Sidek³, Noor Ani Ahmad³, Riyanti Shaari³, Balkish Mahadir Naidu³, Asma Mohamed³

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HEALTH FINANCING - OOP HEALTH EXPENDITURE

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Out-of-pocket (OOP) health expenditures consist of direct spending for health after excluding third-party payments such as insurance. Even though the public health facility is easily accessible, every year there is a considerable increased in the amount of OOP paid for care in the private sector. OOP health expenditures need to be evaluated to provide policymakers to an overview of population spending in healthcare.

Objective: To estimate the total OOP health expenditure reported for use of health services.

Methodology: A face-to-face interview using structured questionnaire was used in a community survey. OOP spending was derived from the annual payments made for inpatient and dental care, and expenditure for health appliances; two weeks of outpatient and promotive and preventive care spending were also included.

Results and Discussion: Total OOP health expenditure for the whole population (estimated at 27,278, 956 million people in 2011) was estimated at RM 11,030 mil (RM 941 mil – RM 12,650 mil) amounting to 1.29% of 2011 Malaysian Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or 1.33% of Malaysian Gross National Product (GNP). Per capita OOP health expenditure for Malaysia was estimated to be RM404 (RM346 – RM462), which is 3.71% of per capita annual income using reported income for this survey. Using the Central Bank of Malaysia estimation for per capita annual income of RM 29,094, this health expenditure estimates makes up 1.39% of the Malaysian per capita annual income.

Conclusion: Findings will give valuable information for policymakers towards improving the health care service delivery.