

Govt eases donation pledge

MySejahtera a possible platform to register organ donors

By GERARD GIMINO
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: A function enabling the public to take the pledge to donate their organs may soon be available through the MySejahtera application, says Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

“The current organ donation rate in Malaysia is one of the lowest in the world, and we are trying our best to make it easier for people to pledge as donors.

“We are also suggesting to include an in-app function on MySejahtera, whereby users can pledge to donate their organs,” Khairy said when launching the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) 16th Annual Dialysis Conference (ADC) 2022 here yesterday.

He noted that kidney transplants are the best option for treating end-stage kidney disease (ESKD), but the current organ donation rate in the country, however, makes it improbable for patients to receive a transplant.

Khairy added that an upward trend of patients with ESKD was recorded over the last 25 years.

“The National Health and Morbidity Survey 2011 showed an increase in chronic kidney disease from 9.1% to 15.5% in the 2018 edition.

“If left unchecked, this number is estimated to reach 106,000 patients in 2040,” he said.

Khairy added that approximately 8,000 new patients are diagnosed with ESKD annually, which places the nation as one of the countries with the highest incidence rates in



Transplants save lives: Khairy launching the 16th Annual Dialysis Conference at a hotel.
— Bernama

the world.

Present at the launch were NKF chairman Datuk Dr Zaki Morad Mohd Zaher, NKF vice chairman Dr T. Thiruventhiran, ADC 2022 scientific committee chairman Dr Muhammad Iqbal Abdul Hafidz, and NKF chief executive officer Khor Xin Yun.

On a separate note, Khairy said 110,000 patients are set to receive the first batch of Pfizer’s oral antiviral drug, Paxlovid, to treat high-risk Covid-19 patients.

“The antivirals are set to arrive later this month with the agreement having been finalised with the drugmaker last month.

“If we find that this is efficient in treating high-risk Covid-19 patients, we will make additional purchases for it,” he told reporters.

He added that the ministry is also looking at purchasing two other drugs, namely molnupiravir and another from AstraZeneca, but this has yet to be finalised.

“We have also consulted physicians to create the best Covid-19 clinical care pathway to treat those admitted while reducing the mortality rate.

“This allows us to push the nation’s recovery forward and shift the focus of public healthcare to non-Covid-19 cases,” he said.

On the reopening of borders, Khairy said an announcement will be made by next week, barring any changes.

“The Cabinet has given the nod for this at a meeting on Friday, and we are currently waiting for the announcement from the Prime Minister,” he said, adding that the announcement will allow players in the travel industry to make the necessary preparations.

Watch the video
TheStarTV.com

