

Healthcare

The growing base of ageing populations and sophisticated healthcare consumers is driving the demand for more innovative and effective healthcare solutions. Amidst these developments, Singapore presents a lead market for future-oriented healthcare solutions and is an ideal partner for companies and healthcare service providers that seek to develop new solutions to address unmet healthcare needs in Asia and beyond.

Translate first-world into world's firsts

Singapore's strong fundamentals in world-class healthcare delivery and biomedical sciences innovation, together with advanced IT infrastructure, make it the ideal environment for pioneering healthcare excellence. Furthermore, Singapore has an efficient healthcare financing system that is anchored on the twin philosophies of individual responsibility and affordable healthcare for all. Through a unique co-payment system, use of market-based mechanisms to promote competition, transparency and the adoption of technology to improve healthcare delivery, Singapore has achieved good healthcare outcomes while keeping healthcare expenditure below 4% of GDP.

A clear view to a brighter future

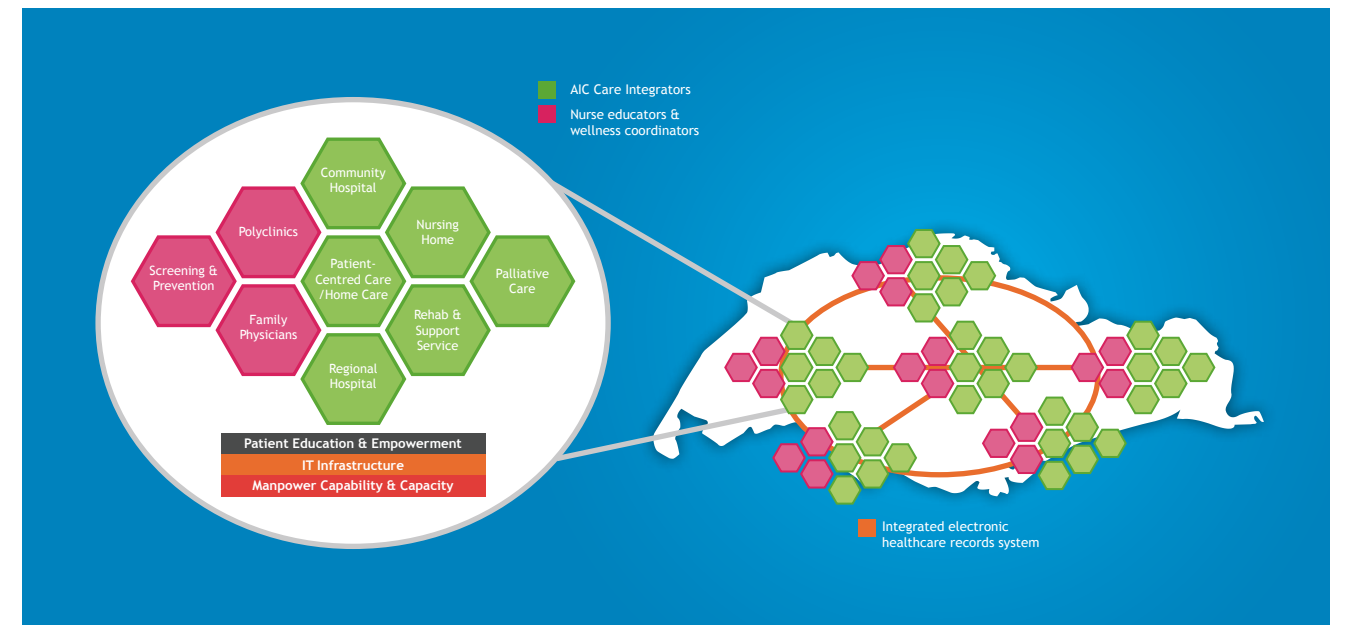
Singapore's integrated healthcare system is easy to navigate. Access to the healthcare system is streamlined through regional clusters comprising acute-care hospitals, community hospitals, polyclinics and home-care services. Companies can also work with national specialty centres that focus on key therapeutics (e.g. cancer, cardiovascular diseases, neurodegenerative disease, eye diseases, infectious diseases). In addition, Singapore's integrated healthcare network is underpinned by an electronic medical records exchange system that allows for secured exchange of patient information across public healthcare clusters and community hospitals. Progressive steps are taken to establish a fully integrated national electronic healthcare record system.

Get on the fast track to Asian markets

Asia's fast expanding healthcare markets, which are projected to grow from US\$246 billion in 2009 to US\$349 billion in 2012 (Frost & Sullivan, 2010), present tremendous opportunities for companies in the healthcare and biomedical sciences sectors worldwide. Leveraging Singapore's pan-Asian market as lead demand as well as the city-state's strong network with clinicians in the region, Singapore presents an ideal location to develop and roll out your innovative solutions to address Asia's unmet healthcare needs. It is also a powerful reference site for subsequent commercialisation, scaling and export of these solutions into Asia and beyond.

At a glance

- World's 4th best healthcare infrastructure (IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2009)
- World's 3rd lowest in infant mortality (WEF Global Competitiveness Report, 2009-2010)
- World's 7th highest in life expectancy (WEF Global Competitiveness Report, 2009-2010)
- National healthcare expenditure constitutes less than 4% of GDP
- Effective healthcare financing that provides multiple tiers of protection and universal coverage for Singaporeans



Singapore has established integrated clusters of healthcare services that are equipped with the requisite infrastructure and capabilities to address the full continuum of care in the city-state's key regions; these clusters are also connected via an integrated electronic healthcare records system.

Hill-Rom: Driving innovation for Asia Pacific in Singapore

Hill-Rom has established its Asia-Pacific Innovation Centre in Singapore to focus on applied development in micro-electronics, embedded software and electro-mechanical systems, all of which are integral to the development of new Hill-Rom beds and therapy surfaces. The centre will also be the home-base for new teams looking at R&D projects for global applications of Hill-Rom products. In 2010, Hill-Rom launched the Patient Support Development Center, which will collaborate with hospitals in Asia to develop new products for the region. Hill-Rom also launched a Respiratory Care Development Center that will identify and develop innovative global respiratory care products.

A*STAR-Tekes: Cross-border collaboration

In January 2010, Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and Tekes, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, announced the first bilateral Joint Call for Proposals (JCP) in areas including healthcare, wellness and ageing. The JCP is part of the 2nd Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by both parties to promote R&D and scientific collaboration. This follows the success of projects under the first MOU, which included the development of an online health monitoring platform that can remotely track the sleep activity of elderly patients. This platform has been successfully tested at a Singapore nursing home, allowing caregivers to monitor and advise their patients from anywhere in the world as long as they have an internet connection.