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Health Ministry to submit insurance proposal to PM

PUTRAJAYA, Sat. - The Health Ministry will submit a proposal soon to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on a national health insurance scheme to cover public health costs.

"I will brief Dr Mahathir soon on the studies made before submitting the proposed scheme.

"I will leave it to the Prime Minister to decide whether to accept the scheme," Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng said at Putrajaya Hospital.

He said the proposal was extensively discussed and studied by medical professionals, consumer bodies, universities and stakeholders in the system.

He added that it had also gone through different channels in Government. This was to get wider acceptance before the proposal was submitted to the Prime Minister.

However, Chua declined to disclose details of the proposed scheme.

"This is a longstanding proposal coordinated by the Economic Planning Unit.

"Many studies have been done in the past. We even brought in international consultants and various studies were made," he added.

However, he said, none was approved by the Government.

Chua said the Government felt the time had come for Malaysians to have the scheme which will take over from the Government in terms of the health care expenditure of individuals.