

Gov't Mulls Funding Treatment For Gov't Hospitals' Outpatients In Private Hospitals
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 6 (Bernama) -- The Health Ministry is considering a mechanism to bear the treatment costs for outpatients registered with the government hospitals who wish to seek treatment at the private hospitals in this country.

Its minister, Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said discussions between the ministry and private hospitals would be held on implementing this concept.

"We are thinking of how to build a bridge of cooperation between the medical services of the public and private sectors.

"So, we're thinking whether an outpatient who is already in the Health Ministry's system can be asked to seek treatment at a private facility and the cost be borne by the government," he told reporters during his visit to Kuala Lumpur Hospital (HKL), on Thursday.

Dr Subramaniam said the partnership would be able to optimise all expertise and use of sophisticated equipment in the medical field for the convenience and well-being of the people.

"We are exploring the concept of collaboration with the private sector but it will also depend on whether they can accept our costs," he said.

On whether the ministry would consider the private sector's request for it to be incorporated and collaborate in providing healthcare services for the 1Malaysia clinics, Dr Subramaniam said the ministry would re-visit the details of the request to find a solution to the issue.

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