

15 PER CENT OF POPULATION

RISE IN KIDNEY DISEASE CASES ALARMING

Health D-G hopes newly launched MyBuahPinggang website can raise awareness among the public

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THE Health Ministry has expressed concern over the rise in the number of people suffering from chronic kidney diseases, which involved 15 per cent of the population.

Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah said even as the country spared no effort to curb the spread of the

Covid-19 pandemic, treatment of people suffering from other illnesses and diseases, including chronic kidney disease, remained a priority.

"A survey showed 15 per cent of the population are suffering from chronic kidney diseases of different stages.

"What is more worrying is that a majority of them do not realise that they are suffering from it.

"This is because symptoms related to the disease will not be apparent during its early stages. They will only become apparent when the disease has reached a serious (critical) stage," said Dr Noor Hisham at the virtual launch of the MyBuahPinggang website (www.mybuahpinggang.com) yesterday.

The website was developed by MedTweetMy with the cooperation of the ministry's Nephrologists Services Department and the Malaysian Society of Nephrology, National Kidney



A nurse monitoring a haemodialysis machine. The new MyBuahPinggang website is designed to be a one-stop information centre for the public, especially kidney disease patients. FILE PIC

Foundation (NKF), Universiti Putra Malaysia and AstraZeneca.

Dr Noor Hisham said it was a one-stop information centre for the public, especially kidney disease patients.

It provides information on ways to look after their kidneys' health and the treatments available for those suffering from kidney failure.

"The information available on the website will be extended to (a) wider (range of) topics, including pre-dialysis patients and diabetes.

"The ministry hopes the web-

site will increase awareness, educate the people and subsequently reduce the number of people suffering from kidney failure."

Dr Noor Hisham said people had the shared responsibility of taking care of their health and that it was not only the duty of doctors, nurses and the ministry.

"Let us 'Kita Jaga Kita'. We must not only win against Covid-19 but also diseases such as chronic kidney failure."

Nephrology Services Department head Datuk Dr Ong Loke Meng said the late detection of kidney diseases would add to the

social and financial problems of society.

"We hope the website will help educate the public on the disease."

NKF director Datuk Dr Zaki Morad Mohamad Zaher said the website would help the foundation educate and reach out to the public with verified information on kidney diseases and treatments.

"NKF will continue to cooperate with the MSN and the ministry to provide quality dialysis treatment and information on ways to protect kidneys," he said.