

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



Tote Board Community Healthcare Fund to Help Needy RA Patients Requiring Biologic Agents

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a disease of the immune system that affects multiple joint causing pain, stiffness and swelling of the affected joints. The patient may become disabled.

There is currently no cure for RA and the condition is irreversible. Nevertheless there are various treatment strategies centred on alleviating the symptoms, prevent further joint destruction and regaining muscle strength and mobility. Besides Non-steroidal Anti-Inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like Diclofenac, Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs (DMARDs) like Methotrexate, Leflunomide, Hydroxychloroquine etc. are prescribed. Low dose steroids may also be used. There is now a group of drugs called biologic agents which can control the disease quickly and more effectively. They are given as injections and are very expensive.

National Arthritis Foundation is pleased to announce that we have been awarded the Tote Board Community Healthcare Fund to help improve the quality of life of our RA patients. Patients who suffer from RA and require a Biologic Agent but cannot afford its high cost, may qualify for a subsidy of up to S\$1000 per month to help pay for the drug.

If you know of any patient who may qualify, please ask the patient's Rheumatologist to apply for this subsidy using the attached form. For further details, please contact Lynn Low of National Arthritis Foundation (62279726).

Prof Feng Pao Hsii
Chairman
National Arthritis Foundation
13 Dec 2011