

HEALTH Record

\$161 BILLION to modernise Health sector in Budget 2026

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**"THIS IS WHAT PUTTING
PEOPLE FIRST MEANS!"**

**Budget 2026 expands
healthcare, family
support**

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**Blueprint for a
prosperous country
already in action**

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HEALTH Record

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\$161B to build modern hospitals, expand digital care, train thousands of medical workers

As part of Guyana's budget 2026

The Government of Guyana has set aside \$161.1 billion in 2026 to further modernise the country's healthcare system.

Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance, Honourable Dr Ashni Singh, shared the plans for the health sector during his presentation of budget 2026 to the National Assembly on January 26.

He shared a plan to expand medical infrastructure, improve access to modern equipment and medications, strengthen the healthcare workforce, and provide patient-centred care across all regions.

Dr Singh emphasised the goal of creating a modern, integrated, and science-driven healthcare system that guarantees every Guyanese access to quality medical care, no matter where they live. This year's focus is on completing crucial hospital projects, expanding digital health systems, enhancing drug distribution, and launching health and wellness programs nationwide.



In 2026, \$24 billion will be allocated for the construction of a new Pediatric and Maternity Hospital, as well as six regional hospitals in Moruca, West Demerara, New Amsterdam, Bartica, Kato and Lethem.

Additionally, \$1.5 billion will improve the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) and finish new polyclinics in Campbellville and Industry. Furthermore, \$12.6 billion is set aside for building, renovating and maintaining health facilities across the country.

The Government also plans to create a National Neurological Rehabilitation Centre for patients with brain and spinal injuries, along with a modern oncology centre for comprehensive cancer care, which is budgeted at \$1.1 billion.

To boost diagnostic and treatment capabilities, \$3.1 billion is designated for new medical equipment.

This includes installing a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner, computed tomography (CT) scanner, and a cardiac catheterisation laboratory (Cath Lab) at GPHC, and expanding the telemedicine network to another 50 remote communities.





Importantly, the Government will start incorporating artificial intelligence (AI)-based diagnostic systems to enhance clinical decision-making and improve healthcare outcomes.

A significant part of the health budget, \$34.9 billion, will finance the purchase and delivery of drugs and medical supplies while upgrading the national supply chain.

Five new regional drug distribution centres will open in Mabaruma, Onderneeming, Williamsburg, Lethem and Bamia. These centres will benefit from a modern, technology-driven inventory management system to ensure accountability and reduce shortages.

A key project for 2026 is the continued rollout of the Electronic Health Records (EHR) system. This system aims to fully digitise patient information and boost service efficiency. With \$764 million allocated, this system, already launched at the Festival City Polyclinic in Georgetown, will enable online booking, digital medical histories and data sharing across facilities.

Full implementation at GPHC is expected in the first half of the year, allowing for expansion to hospitals and clinics nationwide.

Expanding Human Resource Capacity

The Government is making a substantial investment in training and growing the healthcare workforce. In 2026, \$1 billion is budgeted for building two Health Sciences Training Complexes with dormitories at Suddie and New Amsterdam.

Training goals target an additional 162 doctors specialising in neurosurgery, urology, anesthesiology and intensive care; 5,440 nurses and allied professionals

across the country; and launching a Pre-Med Programme in Regions Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam), Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara), Six (East Berbice-Corentyne), and Nine (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo). These initiatives build on the 2,862 medical professionals trained in 2025.

The Government will also continue to strengthen the University of Guyana (UG)’s College of Medical Sciences, which has expanded to accommodate 144 more students in Region Three.

Additionally, a Digital Health Training Institute will be established to develop skills in medical informatics and data management.

Over the next five years, at least 6,000 nurses and numerous medical specialists will be recruited and trained in collaboration with the private sector and international partners.

Tackling Disease Prevention and Public Health

In 2026, the Ministry of Health will ramp up efforts to lower the incidence of diabetes, hypertension and cancer through preventive medicine programmes, expanded screenings, and digital monitoring systems. Dialysis services will continue to grow, with new units introduced at regional hospitals.

Moreover, the HEARTS protocol (a strategic initiative implemented across health centers to improve cardiovascular care, specifically targeting hypertension control for cardiovascular care) will be expanded to more than 400 facilities by the end of 2026.

Mental health will remain a top priority.

Following the launch of the suicide prevention hotline and the national suicide monitoring system in 2025, the Government will incorporate mental health care into primary health services, broaden community programmes, and train more “gatekeepers” for suicide prevention and early intervention.



The Ministry of Health will keep working to reduce the burden of communicable diseases, stepping up fogging and larviciding efforts for malaria and dengue.

Door-to-door distribution of preventive medication for filaria will continue, along with increased human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). Testing and monitoring will also increase in 2026 to boost progress toward disease elimination goals.

Maternal, Child and Emergency Healthcare

In 2026, maternal and child health services will expand with the six new hospitals commissioned last year. Adding 74 new maternal beds has already increased national capacity. This year, 98,500 students will receive health screenings, with a focus on preschool child health and early autism testing.

At the same time, a significant reform is in progress for emergency response.

The Government is setting up the Guyana Medical Emergency Authority (GEMA), an entity that will unify and enhance national emergency medical services. With a \$3.7 billion allocation, GEMA will manage ambulance dispatch, telehealth support, and workforce training, creating a more responsive and coordinated emergency system nationwide.

Dr Singh noted that the health programme is “a decisive step toward a modern, fair and technology-driven medical system that prioritises both prevention and quality care.”



Patient care to be transformed, as national Electronic Health Records system launched

Guyana has taken an important step to improve its healthcare with the launching a national Electronic Health Records (EHR) system during a health fair held on January 17 at Festival City Polyclinic in Georgetown.

The EHR system is designed to significantly reduce waiting times and eliminate paper records. It will also improve coordination of care.

Under the new system, patients will be able to book appointments online, access their medical history digitally, and move seamlessly between doctors, laboratories and pharmacies.

Speaking at the launch, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, said the initiative aligns with the Government’s broader digital transformation, noting that the vision for electronic health records has been in development for decades.

Dr Anthony also highlighted the long-term benefits for patients, noting that laboratory results, imaging



and prescriptions will be stored in one secure digital record.

“When the results [are] finished, you ain’t got to come back and wait there. That result goes directly into your record,” he said.

Additionally, the urgency to implement the system became even clearer during the COVID-19 pandemic, when patient data across the country had to be managed manually.

“We recognise that during COVID, to manage patients and to understand what was going on across this country, had to be done manually, and it was a challenge,” Dr Anthony said.

Addressing concerns about privacy and confidentiality, the Minister assured the public that strong legal safeguards are already in place. He pointed to the Data Protection Act, which imposes fines of up to \$20 million for individuals and \$100 million for institutions that unlawfully disclose personal medical data.

“People’s information must be kept confidential, and we are taking this very seriously,” Dr Anthony said.

Looking ahead, Dr Anthony said the system will be rolled out nationwide, covering all public hospitals and health centres. There is also a plan to integrate private healthcare providers.

“There is no difference between getting treated in Lethem or getting treated in Georgetown, because all would be on the same platform,” he noted.

The Minister urged patients and healthcare workers alike to embrace the new technology, acknowledging that adjustments will take time, but emphasising the long-term benefits.

“If we embrace this and work well, we will all share in the benefits,” Minister Anthony said, adding that the system will allow for more efficient care, better planning, and improved health outcomes for all Guyanese.





Budget 2026 expands healthcare, family support

-Health Minister

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has rejected the Opposition’s claims that budget 2026 “does nothing for the people”, pointing to a range of concrete measures that directly support women, children and families across Guyana.

During the recent national budget debates, the Health Minister pointed out that the Opposition is rejecting the national budget, but is not offering reasonable alternatives, all while overlooking the results already seen in the health sector.

He argued that the budget 2026 expands investments in maternal and child health, preventative care and expanded access to medical services nationwide. Enhancing the human resource pool is key to the Government’s investments in the health sector.

Under the 2026 allocations, 98,500 students across Guyana will receive free health screenings, with a focus on preschool child health and early autism testing.

“When you look at this budget, these are the kinds of initiatives that are in this budget that our people across this country would benefit from. The children of Guyana would be benefitting from these initiatives,” he told the National Assembly.

He further highlighted that over the last two years, 175,272 children aged 18 and under, along with adults aged 50 years and older, have accessed free eye testing with a \$2000 voucher made available by the Government. This support extended beyond just testing. Over 160,000 persons received a \$15,000 voucher to subsidise the cost of a pair of spectacles.

“This is what putting people first means,” the Minister said, questioning how such initiatives could be dismissed when Opposition members publicly declared they could not support the budget.

The Health Minister said budget 2026 reflects the Government’s commitment to evidence-based planning and inclusive development, with programmes designed to address real needs rather than political rhetoric.

From new hospitals to digital records, the health sector, he emphasised, is poised for transformation in keeping with the government’s commitment to building a world-class health sector with \$161.1 billion allocated in the budget.

Minister Anthony pointed to additional measures, including the \$100,000 Newborn Cash Grant and expansion of maternal homes, as tangible support from which Guyanese families are already benefiting from and will continue to do so.



Digital x-ray machine commissioned in Region 10



Healthcare services in Region 10 (Upper Demerara-Upper Berbice) received a significant boost on January 16 with the commissioning of a state-of-the-art digital x-ray machine at the Upper Demerara Hospital, marking a major milestone in the Government’s ongoing healthcare modernisation drive.

The commissioning was led by Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, and represents a total investment of approximately \$120 million, inclusive of extensive retrofitting works to prepare the facility for the advanced diagnostic equipment.

The newly installed digital x-ray system replaces outdated analogue technology and is expected to significantly improve diagnostic accuracy, speed and efficiency, thereby strengthening patient care across the region.

The retrofitting work, valued at approximately \$72.2 million, ensures that the facility meets modern safety and operational standards required for the use of advanced medical-imaging technology.

Addressing the commissioning ceremony, Minister



Anthony reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to upgrading healthcare infrastructure nationwide and ensuring equitable access to quality medical services.

We are very pleased to commission this digital x-ray machine. All facilities in this region will now be equipped with digital x-ray systems, replacing the older analogue machines,” he said. The transition to digital imaging will reduce patient waiting times, improve health outcomes and allow medical professionals to make faster and more accurate diagnoses.

Regional Health Officer (RHO) for Region 10, Dr Gregory Harris, said the new equipment will greatly benefit residents of Blueberry Hill, Wismar and surrounding communities. He noted that the upgrade forms part of a broader effort to enhance services at the Upper Demerara Hospital.

“We want our residents to have access to efficient healthcare services on a 24-hour basis. Our duty is to serve the people of Region 10,” said the RHO.

The commissioning of the digital x-ray machine is also expected to reduce the need for patient referrals to other regions, easing travel burdens and improving access to critical diagnostic services.

This investment aligns with the Ministry of Health’s broader agenda to modernise healthcare facilities, strengthen service delivery and build a resilient, people-centred healthcare system capable of meeting the evolving needs of the population.

Also present at the commissioning ceremony were Senior Operating Manager, Mr Michael Gouviea, Regional Executive Officer, Mr Dwight John, and other officials.

Filled Omelette

132
Calories
per serving

Prep Time:
10 Mins
Cook Time:
5 Mins

Ingredients

4 Eggs
1/4 cup Milk
1/2 cup Shredded Pak Choy
1 tablespoon Olive Oil
Salt and Pepper to taste.
2 Tomatoes, cut into sections.

Directions

1. Break the eggs one at a time in a small bowl and transfer to a larger bowl.
2. Add the milk and beat with an egg whisk or fork.
3. Heat the frying and add the oil. Pour the egg mixture into the pan and cook for two minutes.
4. Add the pak choy, sprinkle on salt and pepper and cook for a few seconds more. Fold the omelette in half.
5. Slide omelette unto a platter and garnish with tomato sections.

Serving Suggestion: 4 crackers or 1 small pot bake or 1 toasted cassava bread.

Serving Size: About the size of the palm of one's hand or one level pot spoon.

Nutrition: Rich source of protein, vitamin A and B vitamins. Moderate source of fat and calcium.

Special Equipment: Frying Pan, Fish Slice

From the Cook Book





Six new hospitals underway to strengthen healthcare delivery across Guyana

Construction is underway on six new general hospitals as part of the Government's plan to modernise Guyana's healthcare system, a move expected to expand access to quality medical services nationwide.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, provided an update on these transformational projects in a recent statement, noting that, in addition to the six hospitals already commissioned, the new expansions form a key pillar of the Government's plan to modernise the healthcare sector through strategic investments.

Dr Anthony noted that work has already begun on the new West Demerara Hospital, which is expected to be completed in approximately two years, featuring facilities such as digital x-rays, computed tomography (CT) scans and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

“We are also going to extend the range of services that we can offer at this hospital, which includes putting in a cardiac cath lab (catheterization laboratory), for persons in Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara) and other communities close by, if they need to get stents or cardiac operations and procedures,” he said.

The Minister pointed out that the new Paediatric and Maternal Hospital at Goedverwagting, East Coast Demerara, once completed, will be one of the best pediatric hospitals, not just in Guyana, but across the Caribbean. The hospital will also be equipped with modern technology that will improve and expand the range of clinical services offered locally and regionally.

In the hinterland regions, construction has already begun on the new hospitals in Moruca, Kato and Lethem, further reinforcing the Government's commitment to offering quality healthcare throughout Guyana.

“All of these would be completed in another two to three years from now. Construction has already started,

and while we are doing that, we are examining other locations in the interior of Guyana where we can improve the healthcare facilities,” said Minister Anthony.

These hospitals are expected to improve healthcare for thousands of residents in the hinterland regions by expanding access to specialised medical services closer to home.

Dr Anthony said this vision is already being translated into tangible action, as the health sector’s spending has significantly increased over the last five years, from a total of \$35.8 billion in 2019 to approximately \$142 billion to date.

“This level of investment is making a tremendous difference in how we build out our healthcare infrastructure and services in Guyana,” said the Minister.

Looking ahead, the Government’s investment plan for the next five years will focus on ensuring that modern, high-quality healthcare services are accessible across Guyana. The construction of these hospitals forms part of the broader strategy to address longstanding disparities in access to healthcare for residents in regional and hinterland communities.



Mabura Health Centre opens with new staff quarters

As part of the Government’s ongoing efforts to expand and strengthen healthcare delivery across Guyana, the Mabura Health Centre and adjacent staff quarters in Region Ten (Upper Demerara-Berbice) were officially commissioned on January 16.

The commissioning now marks a significant step in ensuring all regions have equitable access to quality healthcare services.

The newly constructed \$54 million facility is fully staffed and equipped to provide essential primary healthcare services to residents of Mabura and surrounding communities in the region.

The facility will enhance access to medical care, offering a range of services, including outpatient care, maternal and child health services, basic emergency care and health education programmes that support preventive healthcare and early intervention.

A building to accommodate staff, valued at \$30 million, was also commissioned to provide safe, comfortable accommodation for healthcare workers and is expected to improve staff retention and ensure the consistent presence of medical personnel at the centre.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, stated that the Mabura Health Centre will play a



critical role in saving lives, especially in responding to accidents and medical emergencies in the area.

“What we are trying to do is something extraordinary. We want to ensure that the same services accessible on the coastland are also accessible in the hinterland,” the Minister said.

Dr Anthony noted that telemedicine services will soon be introduced at the facility, allowing patients to benefit from specialist consultations and advanced medical support without having to travel long distances.

Additionally, opportunities will be created for residents interested in pursuing nursing and other healthcare training programmes, further strengthening the human resource capacity in Region Ten.

The commissioning of the new facility forms part of the Government’s integrated strategy to modernise healthcare infrastructure, enhance working conditions for healthcare workers, and improve access to quality healthcare services nationwide.



QUESTION

Who is eligible to receive the cervical cancer screening voucher?

ANSWER

This initiative caters for all women, 21 to 65 years of age.

GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA
CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMME



QUESTION

Are the vouchers available in each region?

ANSWER

YES!
Scan the QR code to view the distribution sites in each region.



GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA
EYE TESTING & SPECTACLES VOUCHER PROGRAMME





ensuring faster medical attention, especially during emergencies.

“The Lima Regional Hospital is more than just a building; it is a lifeline for thousands of families across Region Two,” said the Minister. “The level of services being provided here clearly demonstrates our commitment to strengthening healthcare at the regional level.”

Highlighting the hospital’s expanded diagnostic capacity, Dr Anthony revealed that the hospital conducted 1,446 ultrasounds, 177 computed tomography (CT) scans, 2,107 x-rays, and 38 echocardiograms during the period under review. He emphasised that if residents were required to seek these services privately, they would have spent millions of dollars out of pocket. “These are services that cost a significant amount of money in the private sector,” the Minister noted. “Having them available right here at Lima Regional Hospital eases the financial burden on families, while ensuring timely diagnosis and treatment.”

Dr Anthony pointed to the hospital’s growing surgical services, noting that 218 surgeries were successfully performed up to December 15, 2025. He explained that many of these procedures would have previously required referrals to Georgetown, placing additional emotional and financial strain on patients and their relatives.

“The fact that we can now safely perform hundreds of surgeries right here in Region Two is a major achievement,” said the Minister. “Patients can recover closer to home, supported by their families, which plays a vital role in the healing process.”

The Minister commended the doctors, nurses and support staff for their dedication and professionalism, ensuring efficient and compassionate service delivery. He reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to further investments in equipment, infrastructure and human resources to expand services at the facility.

“Our goal is simple,” he said. “No matter where you live in Guyana, you should have access to reliable, modern and quality healthcare -- and this hospital is making that promise a reality for the people of Region Two.”

Thousands of x-rays, CT scans, 218 surgeries done at new Lima Regional Hospital

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has underscored the critical role of the Lima Regional Hospital in transforming healthcare delivery for residents of Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam), describing the new health facility as a major pillar in bringing quality and affordable medical services closer to the people.

Dr Anthony made these remarks during a recent visit to the hospital. He was accompanied by Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Honourable Mr Madanlall Ramraj; Regional Health Officer, Dr Ranjeev Singh; Regional Chairman, Mr Devin Mohan; and Deputy Regional Executive Officer, Mr Omesh Sasenaryan.

Dr Anthony said the hospital has significantly reduced the need for residents to travel long distances, particularly to Georgetown, to access essential diagnostic and surgical services. This, he noted, has resulted in substantial savings for patients while



Updated emergency medical services system set for phased introduction this year - Health Minister

As part of a series of improvements set for Guyana's healthcare system, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has said that updated emergency medical services will be introduced this year.

The Minister made this known as part of a video message, during which he addressed the Government's vision for this current term, as highlighted by His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali.

Speaking directly on the plans for new or updated emergency medical services, he said that this will be rolled out over the next two to three years, and entails standardising the types of ambulances being used as part of the system.

"Apart from standardisation of the ambulance, we'll be training Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) at various levels, so that they can provide services while transporting the patient," said Dr Anthony. "All of these ambulances will be equipped with various things to keep people alive while they transport them."

The Minister disclosed that there will be a central location where they will coordinate all the ambulances that people can call in. "We'll be able to dispatch ambulances, and we are working to ensure that we

improve the standards of dispatch and to ensure that protocols are properly followed," he said. Dr Anthony said ambulances will be prepositioned to improve response times so that patients could benefit from these services.

Also to be integrated into this new system will be the water ambulances and medevacs, according to the Minister. "So, starting from early next year, you will see us start introducing elements of this. And over the next couple of years, the system will be fully built out, and we'll have a new emergency medical service that would be run by a semi-autonomous authority," he said.

Dr Anthony declared that there are many things to look forward to over the next five years, as laid out by the President. "You can look forward to better care, you can look forward to care that will be timely. You can look forward to wherever you are living, that you would see an improvement in healthcare," he said.

In September 2025, President Ali had announced that Guyana signed an agreement with the U.S.-based Northwell Health to manage emergency medical services. At that time, he stated that Northwell will be managing the service, while capacity is built over the next three years.

Health Ministry, Mount Sinai Health System plan future strategic programmes

The Ministry of Health and the Mount Sinai Health System, based in Canada, are currently engaged in a series of high-level discussions and technical presentations focused on strategic collaboration and programme development for 2026 and beyond.

The engagement, held from January 21-23, was led by Director of the Arnhold Institute for Global Health, Dr Racheal Vreeman, who also headed the Mount Sinai delegation and gave oversight to the technical discussions.

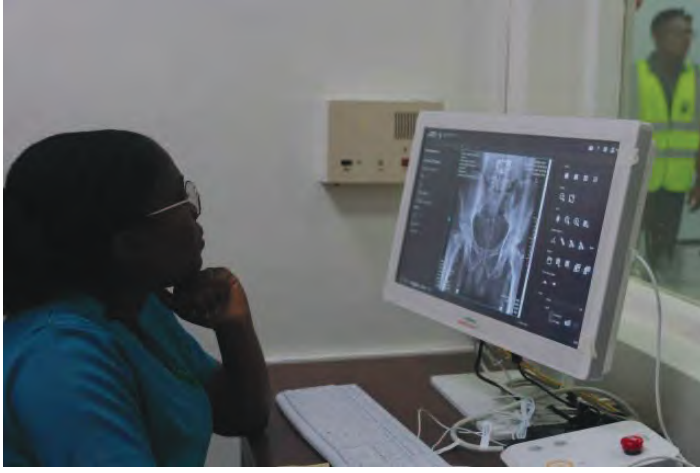
Participating in the discussions were Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Mr Malcolm Watkins; Director General, Dr Vishwa Mahadeo; and Chief Medical Officer, Dr Narine Singh; along with programme heads and sub-programme managers from across the public health sector.

Presentations and discussions centred on several priority areas, including child and youth health with emphasis on school health screenings and developmental disabilities; health workforce planning; strengthening the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC); national hospital quality improvement; women's and children's health and cancer care; primary care and chronic disease management; national health data tracking and regional staffing for data implementation; telemedicine and health services education; digital health; and health supply chain strengthening.

The discussions also focused on areas of mutual interest, future initiatives, and opportunities to enhance cooperation aimed at strengthening health systems, improving service delivery, and advancing national health priorities.

This engagement underscores the Ministry of Health's commitment to sustained collaboration with international partners in support of innovation, capacity building, and the continued transformation of Guyana's health sector.





AI-driven diagnostic systems to transform healthcare delivery across Guyana

The Ministry of Health is advancing the integration of cutting-edge diagnostic technology across Guyana, supported by artificial intelligence (AI), that will revolutionise patient care, improve accuracy and reduce wait time for diagnosis.

Speaking recently at the commissioning for a new digital x-ray system at the Oscar Joseph District Hospital in Charity, Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam), Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, outlined the evolution of diagnostic imaging in the region.

The Minister noted that, just a few years ago, the facility did not have a functioning x-ray department and had to rely on often inaccurate imaging from an analogue machine previously used to serve the hospital.

Highlighting the shift to technologically advanced equipment, he outlined the expansion of digital imaging services, including mammography, ultrasound and, notably, computed tomography (CT) scanning.

“These types of x-rays use less rays, and therefore they’re less harmful. But the quality of the image is

fantastic. Because it is placed on a computer, and we can manipulate it, so you don’t necessarily have to call back the patient,” the Minister explained.

A major milestone in the integration of AI-assisted systems is that they can now interpret results in record time, producing high-quality imaging that detects abnormalities.

“At one of our hospitals, we have put in an AI system, so when the x-ray is generated, it goes seamlessly to this system. And think about this, in 17 seconds, it decides whether this x-ray is normal or abnormal. And if it is abnormal, it would be able to give you a tentative diagnosis,” said the Minister.

These advancements are transforming healthcare along the coastal areas and will soon be implemented in hospitals nationwide.

“When the President talks about a world-class healthcare system, it’s not just for Georgetown, it’s for all over the country, and now you will start to experience that same transformation right here on the coast,” he added.

The advancement of AI-supported diagnostic systems is a reflection of the Government’s commitment to modernise healthcare, improving clinical decision-making and the overall quality of healthcare across Guyana.



Guyanese to benefit from first-ever biosafety level three laboratory

Patients are set to benefit from improved diagnostic services with the establishment of Guyana’s first-ever Biosafety Level Three (BSL-3) laboratory, which will enable the safe testing of dangerous and complex samples locally.

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, stated in a recent televised update that, alongside the construction of new hospitals, strengthening laboratory services remains a priority, noting that accurate diagnosis is often the difference between early treatment and serious complications.

For mothers awaiting test results for a sick child or elderly patients managing long-term illnesses, faster diagnostics will mean fewer sleepless nights and quicker medical decisions.

The BSL-3 laboratory will be supported by upgrades to the National Public Health Reference Laboratory, including gene sequencing technology to track and identify emerging diseases. “This is absolutely important in tracking new diseases using molecular surveillance,” the Minister said.

Hospital laboratories across the country are also being upgraded and digitally interconnected to reduce delays and ensure that doctors can access results more quickly and reliably.

For patients awaiting organ transplants, another critical development is on the horizon, as Dr Anthony announced plans to establish a Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) laboratory, enabling local donor-recipient matching for the first time.

“We have already bought the equipment, and we are in the process of training local experts so that we can do HLA testing right here in Guyana,” he said.

Previously, these tests had to be sent overseas, adding weeks of uncertainty and additional costs for families already under strain.

A new food and drug laboratory is also being constructed at the University of Guyana (UG) to strengthen oversight of medicines and food safety, further protecting patients.

Together, these investments reflect a healthcare system being shaped around the patient experience, where accuracy, speed and peace of mind matter as much as buildings and equipment.



Medical students applaud Electronic Health Records system

Third-year Medical Student and Volunteer, Mr Revon Lafleur, welcomed the launch of Guyana's Electronic Health Records (EHR) system during an outreach held on January 17 at the Festival City Polyclinic, Georgetown.

He noted that it will significantly reduce long waiting times for patients, particularly the elderly. Under the new system, patients will be able to book appointments online, access their medical history digitally, and move seamlessly between doctors, laboratories and pharmacies.

Mr Lafleur said his experience rotating through hospitals has exposed him to the long-standing challenges in patient registration and access to medical information.

He emphasised that the new system directly addresses these issues and will also benefit medical students and young doctors entering the profession, allowing for smoother patient management and better continuity of care.



Mr Revon Lafleur



Mr Luther

Another volunteer, Mr Luther (only name given), also praised the initiative, highlighting the importance of having medical records easily transferable between health facilities.

He explained that if you transfer doctors or go to "another centre, it would not be an issue to remember your records.

Additionally, another medical student and Ministry of Health volunteer, Ms Donicia Bess-Collins, echoed similar sentiments, pointing out that the EHR system will help eliminate the culture of long waits at health facilities.



Mrs Donicia Bess-Collins



Caribbean
Public Health
Agency

CARPHA



MINISTRY OF
HEALTH
GUYANA

70 ANNUAL
HEALTH RESEARCH
CONFERENCE

"INNOVATIONS IN HEALTH" GUYANA

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Biobank, pharmaceutical, vaccine manufacturing part of Life Sciences Park plan

-Health Minister

The possible establishment of a biobank alongside pharmaceutical and vaccine-manufacturing facilities is being advanced through plans to develop a Life Sciences Park in Guyana, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has said.

The Minister made the remark in a video message, during which he said, “We intend to develop a Life Sciences Park, and this programme came about with His Excellency President Dr Irfan Ali meeting with Barbados Prime Minister Ms Mia Mottley, and two of them having a meeting with President of the European Union (EU) Ms Ursula von der Leyen.”

According to Dr Anthony, those discussions resulted in a special programme, through which the EU will support both Barbados and Guyana in developing Life Sciences Parks. He revealed that Guyana is close to formalising a partnership with a leading Life Sciences Park in Belgium, which will play a key role in shaping the local initiative.

“We are on the verge of signing an agreement with one of the top Life Sciences Parks in Belgium and, once that is signed, the park in Belgium is going to work with us to develop our life science park here in Guyana,” Dr Anthony said.

The Minister stated that a major aspect of the initiative will be the development of a biobank, aimed at

advancing research into diseases affecting the local population, including cancer.

“We also want to ensure that we develop bio banking that is from different tissues. We’ll be able to bank them, where researchers then would be able to use the tissue to do more research on understanding different types of cancers and how they interact in different mediums,” he said.

Dr Anthony explained that the biobank would strengthen research capacity and expand scientific knowledge relevant to Guyana’s health challenges.

“So, we would be working on establishing a bio bank capable of doing these types of research and extending our knowledge in some forms of these cancers that have been affecting our local population,” he said.

Beyond research and discovery, the Life Sciences Park is also expected to support manufacturing, particularly in the pharmaceutical and vaccine sectors, through partnerships with international companies.

“We are also going to be working with various partners and companies to establish manufacturing in Guyana,” said the Minister. He disclosed that discussions are already underway with several partners interested in setting up pharmaceutical manufacturing plants in the country.

“We want to do more manufacturing of pharmaceuticals. And already, we’ve been talking to a number of partners that over the next couple of years, will be coming to Guyana to establish manufacturing plan for pharmaceuticals,” the Minister said.

In addition, Dr Anthony said talks are ongoing to establish local vaccine-manufacturing facilities. “We have also been talking to a number of partners to set up plants here to do the manufacturing of vaccines,” he said.

The Minister said these combined initiatives would generate employment opportunities, while positioning Guyana as a centre for medical research and innovation.

“So once completed, what we’ll be doing is creating more jobs. What we’ll also be doing is creating an

academic centre where we can conduct research in medicine and to do new discoveries that would enhance the types of medicines that people would be using in the future,” he said.

Further, the Minister stated that over the next few years, citizens will see the Government moving in this direction, facilitating collaborations with various global partners and academic institutions.

Blueprint for a prosperous country already in action *-Health Minister*

Talks up significant investments in country’s health sector

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has said that the vision set out to move Guyana towards a prosperous country is already in action, with steady investments being made across various sectors, including healthcare.

The Minister made the comment as part of a video message, during which he spoke about the strategic vision for Guyana as outlined recently by His Excellency President Dr Irfaan Ali.

“In that vision, he touched on almost every sector of what it is that his Government intends to do in health, education, infrastructure, utilities and many more; and what this vision intends to do is move Guyana away from being a survival economy to one where we are going to be a prosperous country,” Dr Anthony said.

This blueprint, Dr Anthony affirmed, is already in action, as over the last five years, all would have seen steady investments in various sectors to bring the dream to realisation. To this end, he highlighted that, in healthcare, spending and investments moved from just \$35.8 billion in 2019 to some \$142 billion, thus making a tremendous difference.

Against this backdrop, the Minister noted that under President Ali’s leadership, from 2022 to 2024, they were able to complete 25 new health centres and health posts. In 2025, another 10 health centres and health posts were under construction.

The story, he went on to say, does not end there, as the Government was able to do something unprecedented in the country’s history, which was the opening and

commissioning of six regional hospitals across the country.

Apart from these six new hospitals, Dr Anthony said that they have been working on the construction of additional hospitals, such as the West Demerara Hospital in Region Three (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara) and the New Amsterdam Hospital in Region Six (East Berbice-Corentyne).

However, he noted that the Government has not and will not leave out the hinterland regions of the country, and explained that construction has begun on hospitals in various regions.

“We have not left out the interior of our country, and we have already started the construction of a new hospital at Moruca, we have a new hospital at Kato, and a new hospital at Lethem,” he said.

All of these, the Minister added, are expected to be completed in another two to three years, and while this is being done, the Government is also examining other locations in the hinterland regions where healthcare facilities can be improved.





Member of the 21st Chinese Medical Team, Dr Wei Jie, performs cupping therapy for a local patient with lumbar disc herniation at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Clinic.

Hundreds of Guyanese patients, suffering from chronic pain and complex medical conditions, found relief in 2025 as they received acupuncture treatment from the 21st Chinese Medical Team.

The Chinese Medical Team continues to make remarkable strides in enhancing healthcare services at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC), offering Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) acupuncture treatments.

In 2025, with the dispatch of one additional Chinese TCM physician, the department is now staffed by two dedicated practitioners: Dr Jie and Dr Wei Haoyang.

Since their arrival in Guyana, the pair has treated over 300 patients, focusing on chronic neck, shoulder, and lower back pain, facial neuritis, and post-stroke sequelae -- conditions that are often difficult to fully resolve through conventional western medicine alone.

The expansion of the TCM team to two full-time practitioners underscores China's long-standing commitment to strengthening Guyana's healthcare capacity.

"Now with two TCM specialists on board, patients are receiving more personalised, focused care," noted GPHC's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Robbie Rambarran. "The dedication of the Chinese Medical Team is unparalleled -- they frequently stay late to attend to urgent cases, and their willingness to go the extra mile for our patients has not gone unnoticed," he said.

Over 300 Guyanese patients benefitted from Chinese acupuncture in 2025

As China-Guyana health partnership set to deepen in 2026

Looking ahead, the TCM team plans to introduce acupoint embedding therapy for weight management in early 2026 -- a service highly anticipated by Guyanese grappling with obesity-related health issues.

"Obesity is a major contributor to diabetes and hypertension, two of the most pressing health burdens in our country," Dr Jie said, adding: "This innovative therapy involves inserting absorbable threads into acupoints to support long-term weight control. It has the potential to transform how we address obesity and improve public health outcomes across Guyana."

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, lauded the Chinese Medical Teams' long-standing contributions during a meeting with the delegation.

"For more than two decades, Chinese medical teams have been steadfast partners in our efforts to strengthen Guyana's healthcare system," he said.

"The Acupuncture Department at GPHC is a shining example of co-operation -- bringing affordable, effective treatments to the people who need them most. We deeply cherish this partnership and look forward to expanding TCM services to more regions across Guyana," added the Minister.



Region Five reviews 2025 health sector performance

Charts pathway for significant systemic reforms, better service delivery

With a focus on systemic improvement and service excellence, Region Five (Mahaica-Berbice), on January 17, convened its Regional Leadership Review Meeting for 2025 in the Regional Democratic Council (RDC) boardroom, Fort Wellington, West Coast Berbice.

The meeting brought together the heads of the various departments and members of the regional health management team to review the region's health sector performance for 2025, assess operational challenges and identify priority actions to strengthen service delivery.

A team from the Ministry of Health, led by Director General, Dr Vishwa Mahadeo, was present to guide discussions and interact with the regional leadership team on strategies to improve systems, efficiency and patient outcomes.

“All the departments presented their work that was done during 2025 and compared it with previous years. They also put forward their preliminary proposal for 2026. They listed their challenges, some of which they managed to overcome with the intervention of the Health Ministry and the RDC, and some of which will be dealt with in this year's budget,” said Dr Mahadeo said.

“Region Five had a significantly better year than previous years. The new hospital at Bath has contributed significantly to the better performance and this of course is going to continue to improve. We are now providing services like specialist services, but also different types of surgeries and diagnostics,” he stated. Dr Mahadeo further noted that departmental plans for 2026 will be presented and discussed at the level of the Ministry of Health.

“Region Five is now doing computed tomography (CT) scans and they have done a number of such scans in 2025. The statistics speak for themselves on the improvements that we made. We have set ourselves specific targets and goals that fall within the national plan, and also within the plan of the Government of Guyana. And we will be working towards those,” he added.

During the meeting, Adviser to the President on Health, Dr Mahendra Carpen, encouraged health officers to acknowledge their successes while striving for continued improvement.

“One of the things that we would like you to do is

identify succession plans. Identify young people in your communities, schools, churches and hospital settings, junior doctors, nurses, pharmacists, those with the potential to go further. Let us invest in them so that we are not constantly faced with the same challenges of staff shortages or undertrained personnel,” he said.

Regional Executive Officer, Mr Sadiek Ishmael, during the engagement, underscored the critical role of health professionals in improving population well-being.

“Health is the wealth of any country, and whatever we do at our hospitals and health centres will directly impact the well-being of our people. Your work as health professionals across the region plays a pivotal role in strengthening the health sector and improving the quality of life for our citizens,” he said.

The review showed that Region Five health facilities saw 153,579 patients in 2025, up from 98,991 in 2021. Hospital admissions totalled 3,014, with 361 surgeries and 160 deliveries, underscoring ongoing efforts to expand critical care and maternal health services.

The Bath Regional Hospital recorded 23,002 patients from July 2025 to date, with 804 hospital admissions, 196 surgeries and 71 deliveries. The hospital also provided 402 CT scans, 2,029 ultrasounds, 37,783 blood tests, and dental services to 1,561 patients.

Key priorities for system improvement include completing the Stimulation Centre, expanding health centres, upgrading hospital electrical systems, and rehabilitating the Fort Wellington Hospital. The Bath Regional Hospital will also see the introduction of dialysis, cardiology, endoscopy and colonoscopy services, strengthening critical-care capacity.

To enhance patient care, the region will implement Electronic Medical Records (EMRs) linked to the national network, roll out quality assurance and quality control systems, and improve patient-doctor engagement, diagnostics, follow-ups, and waiting times.

Supply-chain management will also be strengthened through the digitisation of inventory systems and training of specialised staff to ensure 100 percent availability of vital and essential medicines.

Human resource development remains a priority,

with emphasis on succession planning, recruitment and training, including ongoing professional nursing and patient care assistant programmes aimed at building a sustainable health workforce within the region.

The review meeting formed part of ongoing efforts to assess performance, recognise achievements and implement targeted improvements aimed at delivering accessible, efficient and high-quality health services to the residents of Region Five.

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Health Minister tours site for Paediatric and Maternal Hospital

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on January 6, conducted a site visit to Ogle, East Coast Demerara, where construction is progressing steadily on the 256-bed Paediatric and Maternal Hospital.

The visit by the Minister forms part of his ongoing efforts to monitor progress on the country's first-ever specialised facility dedicated to comprehensive maternal and child healthcare.

“The construction of facility is moving well,” said the Minister during the visit. “This hospital, upon completion, is poised to provide comprehensive services which will cater to the healthcare needs of mothers (women of childbearing age) and children.”

Dr Anthony added that the project highlights Government's ongoing commitment to enhancing the health sector and service delivery, marking a pivotal milestone in Guyana's healthcare infrastructure.

Artist impression of the new Paediatric and Maternal Hospital.





ABOVE (L - R): Minister Frank Anthony conducts his walk through.

BELOW: The hospital takes shape.





The facilities will provide advanced services in neurosciences, brain and spinal care, rehabilitative medicine, and geriatric nursing home care -- further strengthening Guyana's health-care ecosystem and improving access to highly specialised treatment.

At the helm of this transformative centre is renowned neurosurgeon, Dr Amarnauth Dukhi, whose expertise and dedication have been instrumental in elevating and pioneering neurosurgical care in Guyana.

The establishment of the first standalone neurological centre in the Caribbean is driven by its capacity to provide top-tier treatment to patients who previously had to travel abroad for complex spinal surgeries and intricate brain procedures.

Beyond serving Guyana's growing demand for advanced neurological care, the facility is strategically positioned to support regional referral needs, strengthening Guyana's role as an emerging hub for specialised health services in the Caribbean.

The project aligns with the Government of Guyana's unprecedented national health-care transformation agenda, which includes the construction and upgrading of regional and specialty hospitals, expansion of diagnostic and treatment capabilities, major investments in digital health systems, medical education and training, and the decentralisation of services to ensure equitable access across all regions.

Gov't facilitates major local neurological specialty health care investment

The Guyana Office for Investment has announced the successful facilitation of a landmark local investment by Neurospine Services Inc., valued at almost \$1 billion upon completion of all phases, which is expected to generate more than 50 new jobs and significantly expand Guyana's advanced medical care capacity.

This strategic investment will establish a state-of-the-art, internationally certified Institute of Neurological Sciences and Rehabilitative Centre, with a second phase to include a 150-room nursing home and a medical storage and logistics complex.





Neurosurgeon, Dr Amarnauth Dukhi, during a walkthrough of the Neurospine Services Inc.'s facility on Duncan Street, Georgetown.

This groundbreaking institution will also include a dedicated rehabilitation centre and a paediatric care institute. Specialised diagnostic equipment will feature the region's first General Electric (GE) Healthcare SIGNA Champion 1.5T wide-bore magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine, fully powered by artificial intelligence (AI) technology.

Construction is progressing on schedule, with the facility expected to officially open by mid-2026.

This investment also supports the Government's broader strategy under the leadership to modernise Guyana's health-care system through expanded infrastructure, technology adoption and improved service delivery.

Neurospine Services Inc.'s project marks a significant milestone in expanding Guyana's specialised medical capabilities and reflects the country's growing appeal as a destination for high-value, knowledge-driven investments in the health sector.

Healthy Eating Tips

Increase Your Fiber Intake



Fiber helps maintain digestive health. It also helps control blood sugar and lower cholesterol levels.

Fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, legumes, nuts and seeds are good source of fiber.



MRI services, other improvements coming to New Amsterdam Hospital

Residents of Region Six (East Berbice-Corentyne) will soon have access to magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanning services at the New Amsterdam Public Hospital, Berbice, when the new hospital facility is commissioned, says Director General in the Ministry of Health, Dr Vishwa Mahadeo.

The announcement was made during a recent public engagement by the Director General and was reinforced on January 14, during a tour and inspection of the New Amsterdam Public Hospital, where he assessed ongoing improvement works and reviewed preparations for expanded services.

Dr Mahadeo explained that the Ministry continues to strengthen regional hospitals as part of a national push to decentralise advanced healthcare services. It is in keeping with Government's vision to ensure that every citizen has access to world class health care across Guyana.

"This is a routine, a regular visit that I would make to all the hospitals across the country," he said. "The visit was to look at works that were supposed to have been done at the hospital for improvement in particular, the laboratory area, and in the wards of the hospital."

Dr Mahadeo reported that works in the laboratory area are largely completed and meet acceptable standards. "The works in the lab is not only to cater for patient comfort, but also for more efficient functioning of the equipment and better utilisation of space," he said.

The Director General also highlighted ongoing upgrades to the Rehabilitation Department, which were expected to be completed within a week of his visit. Upgrades to the Paediatric Ward were also nearing completion.

Director General in the Ministry of Health, Dr Vishwa Mahadeo, meets with the management of the New Amsterdam Public Hospital

"It is a different ward altogether. It is better organised," Dr Mahadeo stated, adding that while works remain ongoing, completion is anticipated within two weeks. He noted that, overall, the hospital is in better shape.

The visit also included a meeting with the hospital's management, during which operational challenges were discussed. "Advice was given as to how to deal with those issues, and of course these meetings are going to continue, he said.

The New Amsterdam Public Hospital serves as the primary healthcare institution for Region Six, providing medical, surgical, maternity and paediatric services to residents of the region and surrounding areas. It is the second-largest hospital in Guyana, after the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC). The hospital is set to be replaced by a US\$161 million Level-Five facility, designed to accommodate 230-256 beds and offer advanced diagnostic and clinical services..





Pharmacists Association, the series of symposia provides a platform for pharmacy students to lead, innovate and share research that will shape the future of healthcare in Guyana and the wider Caribbean.

Minister Anthony emphasised the importance of research and innovation.

“We want to create a culture of research here in the country. These symposia provide our students with the opportunity not only to present their research but to actively contribute to shaping the future of pharmacy and patient care,” he said.

The Minister also highlighted key initiatives aimed at advancing healthcare in Guyana.

“We are developing a state-of-the-art Food and Drug Laboratory at the University of Guyana, a Caribbean Life Sciences Park to support pharmaceutical research and manufacturing, and genomics and biobanking initiatives to enhance precision medicine,” said Dr Anthony.

“Students must embrace these opportunities and be at the cutting edge of innovation,” he added, while also encouraging the students to leverage modern technologies.

“From artificial intelligence to drone delivery of medicines, the future of healthcare is here, and we must use these tools to improve access, efficiency, and patient care across the country,” said the Minister.

The event helps to reinforce Guyana’s commitment to cultivating the next generation of healthcare leaders who will drive research, innovation and excellence in patient care.



Health Minister urges pharmacy students to lead innovation in advancing healthcare

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has emphasised the importance of research and innovation as part of the advancement of healthcare in Guyana

Dr Anthony made the remark while delivering the keynote address during the opening ceremony for the Eighth Student Research and Leadership Symposium of the Caribbean Association of Pharmacists (CAP).

The event was held on January 30 at the University of Guyana (UG), where he was joined by his colleague, Minister of Education, Honourable Ms Sonia Parag.

Hosted through a collaboration between CAP, UG’s College of Medical Sciences, and the Guyana

Construction of Region 10 Medical Supplies Distribution Centre moving apace

Says Health Minister following site visit

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, recently visited the construction site of the Medical Supplies Regional Distribution Centre, which is currently under development in Region Ten (Upper Demerara-Upper Berbice).

The Minister said the construction process is moving along at a good pace, adding that, once operational, it will strengthen the storage and distribution of essential medical supplies, as well as improve healthcare service delivery across the region.

Valued at approximately \$204 million, Dr Anthony projected that the facility is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2026.



Campbellville Polyclinic taking shape

Wide range of medical services on offer when completed

Officials from the Ministry of Health and the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) recently toured the site of the Campbellville Polyclinic, Georgetown, which is being constructed at a cost of \$831 million.

Among the officials were Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, and Chief Executive Officer of the GPHC, Mr Robbie Rambarran. The modern the modern facility will replace the previous Campbellville Health Centre.

Once completed, it will offer services including x-rays, ultrasound, electrocardiogram (ECG), physiotherapy, dental care, asthma services and comprehensive primary healthcare. The sod turning for the two-storey building took place in March 2025.

Mr Rambarran explained that the facility will be equipped with modern medical technology and will integrate with the country's Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system.

This will allow diagnostic images, including x-rays, to be uploaded for remote review by radiologists at the GPHC, improving efficiency and reducing wait times. Additionally, he said lab results will be processed electronically, further streamlining patient care.





Health Minister holds talks with De Kinderen Regional Hospital Management Committee

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, and other officials of the Ministry recently met with members of the De Kinderen, West Coast Demerara Regional Hospital Management Committee to discuss plans for 2026, as well conduct a review of last year's performance at the institution.

The meeting was held on January 19 at the Ministry of Health's Brickdam Headquarters, Georgetown. The Minister was accompanied by Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Dr Narine Singh, and Director General in the Ministry, Dr Vishwa Mahadeo.

Following a brief review of last year, the meeting focused on outlining the hospital's strategic direction and priorities for 2026. The engagement forms part of the Ministry's ongoing commitment to collaborative planning and continuous improvement across the public health sector.

The De Kinderen Hospital is a new \$6.6 billion state-of-the-art regional facility, designed to serve approximately 18,000 residents. Commissioned in August 2025, it is a key part of Guyana's healthcare modernization, offering 24/7 emergency, surgical and specialist care.

The institution includes departments for internal medicine and surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology,

pediatrics, cardiology, mental health and psychiatry, orthopedics, and dental and optical care.

It is one of several new regional hospitals commissioned by the Government under the Ministry of Health to create a world-class health system.





Health Minister applauds outgoing British High Commissioner's support to Guyana's health sector

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on January 19 met with British High Commissioner to Guyana, Ms Jane Miller, as her tenure in the role draws to a close. The meeting was held at the Ministry's Brickdam Headquarters in Georgetown.

During the engagement, Dr Anthony highlighted and commended the High Commissioner's significant contributions in strengthening Guyana's health sector and in advancing cooperation between the U.K. and the Ministry of Health.

The Minister explained that, throughout her term in office, Ms Miller played a pivotal role in supporting Guyana's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including assisting with the coordination and shipment of vaccine donations from the U.K.

In addition, he said her engagement was instrumental in ensuring timely access to vaccines during a critical period for the country's public health system.

"She actively participated in several high-level discussions leading up to the commencement of construction of the Maternal and Paediatrics Hospital in Ogle, East Coast Demerara, underscoring her commitment to improving maternal and child health services in Guyana," said Dr Anthony.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to reflect on ongoing and future areas of cooperation, as both parties reaffirmed their shared commitment to improving health outcomes and sustaining strong bilateral collaboration in the health sector.

Health Minister engages HOTTA members at start of new term

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has expressed his sincere appreciation to the members of the Human Organ and Tissue Transplant Agency (HOTTA) for their continued service and dedication.

The Minister made the comment on January 19 when he met with the HOTTA members at his Brickdam Office, Georgetown, following the commencement of their new term of office. In accordance with the Human Organ and Tissue Transplant Act 2022, the new term spans three years, from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2028.

During this period, members of the agency will continue to play a critical role in providing oversight, guidance and strategic direction to strengthen Guyana's organ and tissue transplant framework.

The members appointed to serve on the agency for the new term are all medical professionals: Dr Shanti Singh Anthony, Dr Sondia Gordon, Dr Pedro Lewis, Dr Kamela Bemaul-Sukhu, Dr Mahendra Rampersaud, Dr Winsome Scott, Dr Navindranauth Rambaran and Dr David Samaroo.

During the meeting, Minister Anthony emphasised that their expertise and commitment are vital to informed decision-making and to advancing improvements within the national health sector, particularly in the area of organ and tissue transplantation.



Health Minister, Medical Termination Board discuss measures to boost reproductive health services

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, has met with members of the Medical Termination Board to engage them in discussions on key matters related to reproductive health services and the regulatory framework governing medical terminations.

The meeting, held on January 19 at the Minister's Office in Brickdam, Georgetown, focused on reviewing the board's ongoing work, strengthening oversight mechanisms, and ensuring that policies and procedures remain aligned with national health standards and best practices.

The engagement forms part of the Ministry of Health's continued commitment to safeguarding women's health, upholding quality care, and ensuring that reproductive health services are delivered in a safe, regulated and responsible manner nationwide.

Members of the board include, Dr Narine Singh, Dr Ertensia Hamilton, Dr Sarwan Jagnarine, Ms Nakesha Cosbert, Pastor Ravi Sharma, Dr Natasha France, Ms Peggy Allcock, Ms Sheila Veerasammy and Ms Hymawattie Lagan.



Health, Public Service Ministers hold talks with Programme Directors, Regional Health Officers

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, along with the Minister of Public Service, Government Efficiency and Implementation, Honourable Mr Zulfikar Ally, have met with Programme Directors and Regional Health Officers of the Ministry of Health to review the current health landscape across the regions and discuss projections, priorities and planning for the upcoming year.

The engagement, held on January 28 at the Ministry of Health Headquarters on Brickdam, Georgetown, focused on strengthening service delivery, addressing regional challenges, and ensuring alignment of strategies to improve health outcomes nationwide.

Also participating in the discussions were Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Mr Malcolm Watkins, Director General Dr Vishwa Mahadeo, and Chief Medical Officer Dr Narine Singh.



Lima Regional Hospital positioned for growth following meeting with Health Minister



As part of the Ministry of Health's ongoing efforts to strengthen and advance the national health system, Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, met recently with the Management Committee of the Lima Regional Hospital, Essequibo Coast to outline planned initiatives and future development projects.

The meeting was held on January 19 at the Minister's Office in Brickdam, Georgetown.

Members of the management committee include Mr Omesh Sasenarayan, Ms Koreshma Jaigobin, Mr Parmanand Singh, Mr Raghunauth Doodnauth, Dr Ranjeev Singh, Ms Naywattie Dyal, Mr Aotto Christiani, Mr Faoud Mohamed and Mr Mohamed Iqbaul.

The engagement focused on improving service delivery, upgrading infrastructure, and enhancing human resource capacity to better meet the healthcare needs of residents within the region.



COURTESY CALLS & MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

Slovakia

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on January 19 welcomed Non-Resident Ambassador of Slovakia to Guyana, Ms Katarina Tonková, during a courtesy call and meeting.

The meeting, held at the Minister's Office in Brickdam, Georgetown, provided an opportunity for both officials to engage in discussions on areas of mutual interest and to explore avenues for strengthening cooperation.

In particular, the Minister and the Ambassador also discussed greater support of Guyana's health sector and the enhancement of broader bilateral relations between Guyana and the Slovak Republic.

Austria

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, welcomed Non-Resident Ambassador of Austria to Guyana, Mr Gerald Vollmer, during a courtesy call and meeting on January 19 at the Minister's Office in Brickdam, Georgetown.

The meeting provided an opportunity for both officials to engage in discussions on areas of mutual interest and to explore avenues for strengthening cooperation, particularly in support of Guyana's health sector and broader bilateral relations.

Pharmacy & Poisons Board

Members of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board on January 19 met with Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, to engage in discussions on strategic priorities and the way forward.

The meeting focused on strengthening regulatory frameworks, improving pharmaceutical oversight, and advancing initiatives aimed at safeguarding public health and ensuring quality healthcare delivery.

Northwell Health

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on January 22 met with a delegation from Northwell Health, based in the U.S., to discuss areas of mutual interest and potential collaboration in strengthening Guyana's health sector.

The Northwell Health team was led by senior officials representing emergency medicine, emergency medical services, and global health initiatives.

Members of the Northwell Health delegation included Vice President, Emergency Medicine Central Operations, Dr Jonathan Berkowitz; Director, Emergency Medical Services, Mr Craig Smith; Senior Project Manager, International Services, Ms Lesidet Salce; Program Director, Center for Global Health, Ms Saleha Atif; Program Manager, Center for Global Health, Ms Hammah Khan; and Program Manager, Center for Global Health, Mr Zaire Couloute.

The engagement reflects the Ministry of Health's continued commitment to fostering international partnerships aimed at improving healthcare delivery and outcomes for the people of Guyana.

Qatar-based Gynecology, Oncology Consultant

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on January 29 received a courtesy call from Qatar-based Gynecology and Oncology Consultant, **Dr Mohammed Taha Hussein.**

During the meeting, pleasantries were exchanged, followed by discussions on areas of mutual interest in healthcare.

Health Minister conducts site visit to No. 1 Dispensary Health Centre

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on January 27 conducted a site visit to the construction site of the No. 1 Dispensary Health Centre on Princess Street, Georgetown to assess the progress of works.

During the visit, the Minister was briefed on the current status of the project, which is now in its final stages. The facility is being constructed at an estimated cost of \$201 million and is expected to be completed in February.

Upon completion, the new health centre will significantly enhance the delivery of primary healthcare services to residents of the community. Dr Anthony reaffirmed the Ministry of Health's commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure and improving access to quality healthcare services across the country.



Region Two records significant improvements in dental services

Dental healthcare services in Region Two (Pomeroon-Supenaam) have recorded notable improvements, reflecting the Regional Democratic Council (RDC)'s continued commitment to enhancing public health delivery.

This progress was highlighted in a report presented by Chairperson of the Health and Sanitation Committee, Ms Melrose Henry, during the first statutory RDC meeting, held in their boardroom at Anna Regina, Essequibo Coast.

According to the report, there has been a significant increase in the number of patients accessing dental services across the region.

In 2024, dental clinics saw 12,758 patients, while in 2025 this number more than doubled to 26,225 patients, indicating increased access, confidence and utilisation of dental care services. Patients benefitted from a wide range of procedures, including specialised dental services.

The report also highlighted trends in specific procedures. Wisdom tooth extractions totaled 79 cases in 2024 and 51 cases in 2025, reflecting improved early intervention and management of dental issues before complications arise.

Importantly, dental facilities across Region Two are well-stocked, with adequate dental materials and supplies available to meet patient demand. This ensures uninterrupted service delivery and enhances the quality of care provided.

The report shows that dental staff are fully trained and equipped with Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) knowledge, significantly reducing the risk of cross-infection and contamination within clinics. This commitment to safety aligns with national healthcare

standards and promotes patient confidence.

Another major improvement noted in the report is the reduction in patient waiting times, resulting from better scheduling, improved efficiency and strengthened service delivery systems.

Regional Chairman, Mr Devin Mohan, said these advancements demonstrate meaningful progress in strengthening dental healthcare in Region Two. He said the RDC, in collaboration with healthcare professionals, remains focused on ensuring accessible, safe and high-quality dental services for all residents.

Mr Mohan said he is pleased that that many more persons are now seeking dental services and commended the efforts of all staff members in the Dental Department in the region.

Bedridden patients to receive home-based care, as Gov't deepens community health services

The Ministry of Health has announced strengthened measures to ensure that bedridden patients receive structured medical care at home, as part of its ongoing commitment to equitable and accessible healthcare delivery.

Director General in the Ministry of Health, Dr Vishwa Mahadeo, explained that for this year, clear directives have been issued to regional health teams. “All bedridden patients must be visited at home,” he said.

Dr Mahadeo noted that the initial visit should include a doctor, the Dental Department, the Rehabilitation Department, and someone to advise on patient care, adding that a plan is to be worked out for each

bedridden patient on the way forward.

The Director General was at the time interacting with the leadership team of Region 5 (Mahaica-Berbice) during their 2025 leadership review meeting held in mid-January.

The meeting was also attended by Advisor to the President on Health, Dr Mahendra Carpen, and a team from the Ministry of Health, including Chief Medex, Ms Carleen Howard-Mohabir, and Chief Inspector, Vector Control, Mr David Williams, among others.

Dr Mahadeo also outlined enhanced care for expectant mothers, stressing the importance of early medical intervention. “All pregnant mothers must be seen by a general doctor early in her pregnancy,” he said, explaining that throughout the course of pregnancy, mothers should get a number of ultrasounds, a number of laboratory tests, and must be evaluated early by the dental department.

Dr Mahadeo emphasised that this approach is important not only for the health of the baby, but for the health of the mother.

Addressing health service delivery, the Director General noted that the region performed well in the distribution of Government-issued health vouchers. However, he acknowledged that the uptake of the use of the voucher needs improvement, but noted that that strategies have already been developed to increase utilisation so citizens can fully benefit from the services available.

Speaking at a prior public engagement, Dr Mahadeo had highlighted several complementary initiatives introduced by the Government to support families from the earliest stages of life. Among them is the \$100,000 newborn cash grant, which has been in effect since January 1, 2025, providing direct financial support to mothers at the time of delivery.

This intervention forms part of a wider continuum of care that includes maternal screening, child health services and universal access to healthcare benefits, all part of Government’s vision of ensuring that each citizen has access to world class health care across Guyana.



Health Minister conducts site visit to Industry Polyclinic

Minister of Health, Honourable Dr Frank Anthony, on January 29, conducted a site visit to the Industry Polyclinic, East Coast Demerara to assess the progress of ongoing construction works at the new facility.

During the visit, the Minister was briefed on the current status of the project and inspected several areas under development. The works are being executed at an estimated cost of \$708 million and form part of the Ministry of Health's ongoing programme to upgrade and modernise healthcare infrastructure

across the country.

Upon completion, the new Industry Polyclinic will replace the existing Industry Health Centre and is expected to significantly enhance the delivery of primary healthcare services to residents of surrounding communities.

Dr Anthony reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to expanding access to quality, reliable healthcare services for all Guyanese.





happy new year

2026

Wishing you a wonderful 2026 filled with love, good health, laughter, and unforgettable moments.



CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING VOUCHER PROGRAMME

The process is simple!

STEP 1

Uplift the \$8,000 cervical cancer screening voucher from a distribution site nearest you.

STEP 2

Take your voucher to one of the approved testing facilities to get your screening done.



WHO CAN BENEFIT:
Women 21 - 65 years of age



MINISTRY OF
HEALTH
GUYANA

Public Relations,
Health Communications,
Health Promotion Unit