

Press Release

NEW ONE-STOP SERVICE PROVIDES GREATER CONVENIENCE FOR PARENTS WHO JOIN THE BABY BONUS SCHEME

From 5 December 2005, parents will be able to join the Baby Bonus Scheme at the same time as when they register the birth of their newborn baby at the birth registration counters of the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) or any of nine hospitals, namely the East Shore Hospital, Gleneagles Hospital, KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Mount Alvernia Hospital, Mount Elizabeth Hospital, National University Hospital, Raffles Hospital, Singapore General Hospital, and Thomson Medical Centre. This new one-stop service is a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (MCYS), the ICA and the nine hospitals.

Previously – Takes slightly more than 1 month; 2 visits to the Bank

2. The Baby Bonus Scheme, first introduced in April 2001, is part of a package of measures to support parents' decision to have more children by helping to lighten the financial costs of raising children. The first child receives a cash gift, while the second to fourth child receives both a cash gift and a co-savings matching contribution in the Children Development Account (CDA) from the Government.

3. Currently, parents of an eligible child will receive the Baby Bonus kit and forms about two weeks after they register the birth of their child. To receive the cash gift, they will need to provide a bank account number on the application form for the Government's Cash Gift Payment. They will then need to visit the bank to get this bank account number verified. If their child is eligible for Government matching contributions, they will receive an authorisation letter from MCYS, after which they will then need to proceed to any POSB bank branch to open a CDA for the co-savings.

Now – Faster and More Convenient with just 1 stop

4. With the new one-stop service, parents can submit the Baby Bonus forms simultaneously when they register the child's birth at the birth registration counter of one of the hospitals or the ICA. The form for the Cash Gift Payment and the bank account number will be verified at the counter. If the parent is a POSB or DBS account holder and the child is eligible for Government matching contributions, the Children Development Account will be opened automatically for them by DBS. This one-stop service thus saves most parents two trips to the bank. Parents will receive the first cash gift payment about three weeks after submitting their properly completed forms.

5. From 1 December 2005, the Baby Bonus kits (with the Baby Bonus and POSB forms) may be distributed to parents as early as during pre-admission when they register to deliver their babies at the hospitals. Thus, parents will have ample time to read the information provided in the kit and

fill up the forms before the birth of their child. (See Annex A for comparison of the current and new processes.)

6. Babies born before 1 Dec 05 and whose births have not been registered can also use the one-stop service. Parents can request for the Baby Bonus kits at the birth registration counters. They will need to bring along their savings passbook or bank statement for verification of the bank account number to credit the cash gift.

7. Parents who do not use the one-stop service will continue to receive the forms via post within two weeks of birth registration.

Baby Bonus can now be used for MediShield or Medisave-approved Private Integrated Plans

8. The money in the Children Development Account can be used for the child and his/her siblings for payment of fees at child care centres, kindergartens and special education schools registered with the Ministry of Education, as well as Approved Institutions that provide National Council of Social Service (NCSS)-registered early intervention programmes. From December 2005, the money can also be used to buy MediShield from the Central Provident Fund Board or Medisave-approved private integrated plans from private insurers.

Enquiries

For enquiries on the Baby Bonus Scheme and One-Stop Service:

- Website : <http://www.babybonus.gov.sg>
- Baby Bonus Information Service (Toll-free): 1800-2537707 during office hours (Monday till Friday: 8.30am – 5.30pm; Saturdays: 8.30 am – 1 pm).

For enquiries on the purchase of MediShield (CPF Board) or Medisave-approved private integrated plans (private insurers) using Baby Bonus:

- Tel Nos: 63552125 or 63547571

Annexes:

A – Comparison of Current Procedure and New One-Stop Service

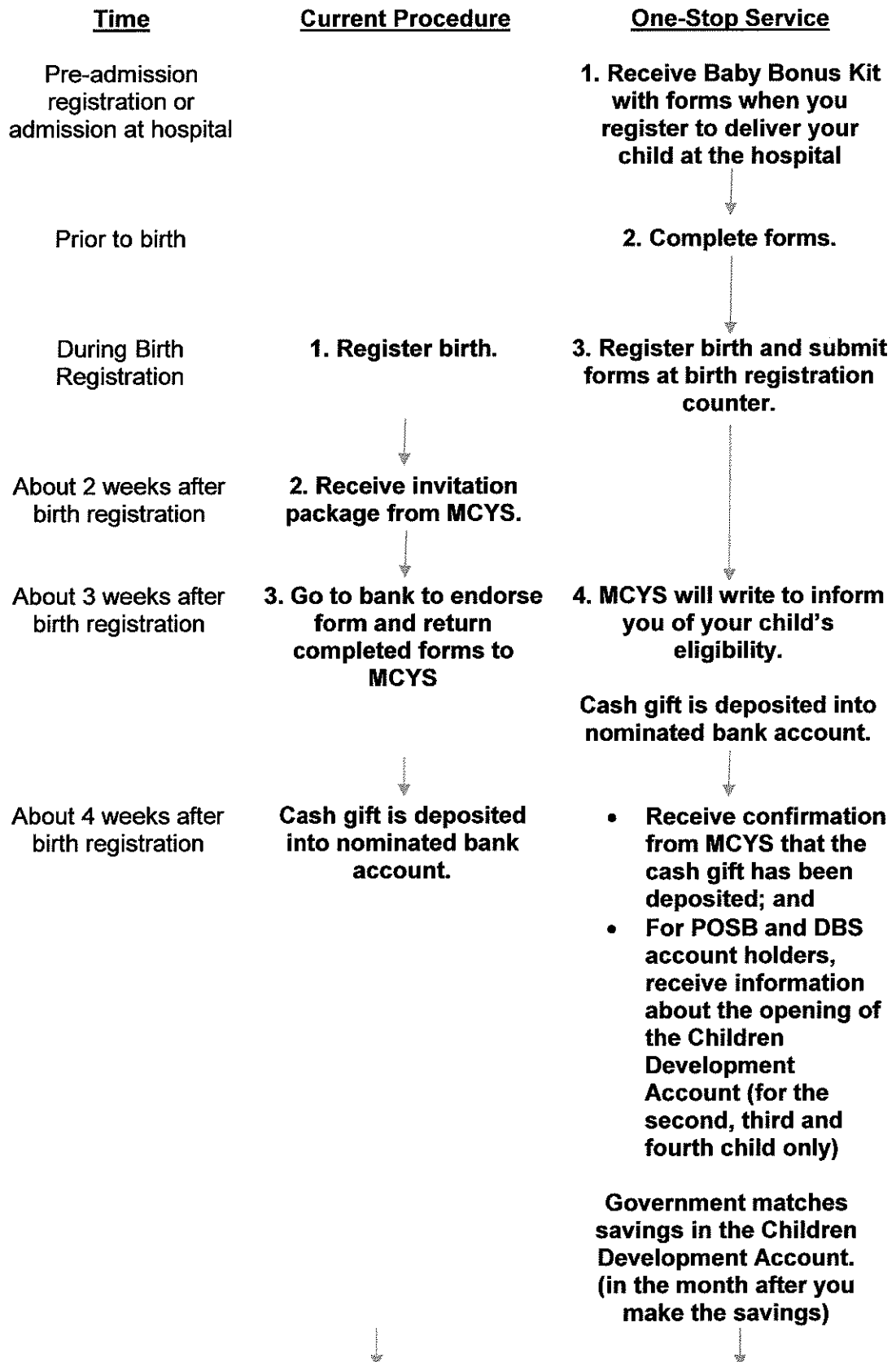
B – Baby Bonus Scheme

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COMPARISON OF CURRENT PROCEDURE AND NEW ONE-STOP SERVICE



About 5 weeks after
birth registration

4. Receive:

- **confirmation from MCYS that cash gift has been deposited; and**
- **authorisation letter to open the Children Development Account.**



5. Open the Children Development Account at any POSB branch.

**Government matches savings in the Children Development Account.
(in the month after you make the savings)**

How to use the One-Stop Service

1. **Read** the Baby Bonus information and forms given at the hospitals or the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA).
2. **Complete** the Baby Bonus forms (Forms BB1 & BB2) and POSB form (POSB form is to be completed by parents of 2nd – 4th child only and if the parent is a DBS/POSB account holder).
3. **Register** the birth of your child.
4. **Submit** the Baby Bonus forms (and POSB form if applicable) during birth registration.

Documents to bring for Baby Bonus during birth registration:

1. Completed Form BB1;
2. Completed Form BB2 (Direct Credit Authorisation For Cash Gift Payments). **Important:** Please check with your bank for the correct bank and branch code of the account to credit the cash gift;
3. Completed POSB form to open the CDA (applicable to the second, third and fourth child only);
4. Passbook or original statement of account of the parent or a nominated third person into whose account the cash gift is to be deposited
5. Copy of the passbook (page with account number and name) or statement; and
6. Copy of Singapore citizenship certificate of mother, if applicable (i.e. if mother is not a citizen by birth).

BABY BONUS SCHEME

The Baby Bonus scheme was first implemented in April 2001 for the second and third child. In August 2004, the Baby Bonus scheme was enhanced and extended to the first and fourth child. The scheme is valid for 6 years.

The first child receives a cash gift, while the second to fourth child receives both a cash gift and a co-savings matching contribution in the Children Development Account (CDA) from the Government. The cash gift is given in 4 equal instalments over 18 months. The parents' savings are matched in the month after the savings are made.

Table 1: Total Baby Bonus Benefits

Birth Order	Cash Gift from Government	Maximum Matching Government Contribution	Total
First	\$3,000	-	\$3,000
Second	\$3,000	\$6,000	Up to \$9,000
Third	\$6,000	\$12,000	Up to \$18,000
Fourth	\$6,000	\$12,000	Up to \$18,000