Home-use device can alert patients to potential heart failure

It checks cause of breathlessness and helps cut down on hospital admissions

**Felicie Lim**

Heart failure patient Tan Thiam Koon, 79, needs to go to a hospital urgently. Family nurse Tan Thimbai, 76, looks after him at home but knows it could be worse. His wife has lung problems. They both have pacemakers, implanted after the heart failed due to heart attacks.

He needs to be on the alert as heart failure is a disease that cannot be cured. There is no cure for heart failure, besides medication. The best one can do is to manage the condition.

The device checks for fluid accumulation in the lungs, which causes breathlessness. It was developed by a team from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) under a NTU-NUS-Industry partnership.

Paper presented by the device is to be placed in the toilet to check if fluid builds up in the lungs. It can also be used to check for the condition of the patient. The device works by measuring the fluid in the lungs. A sensor is placed in the toilet to check if fluid builds up in the lungs.

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