Heart failure kit to be adapted to spot risk of severe dengue

A team of doctors and researchers is looking to adapt a test kit for heart failure to help doctors single out which dengue patients are at risk of severe dengue during the early stages of the disease.

Dr Chia Po Ying, a consultant at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, said: “This test could be quite a significant burden and cost to the healthcare system.”

However, unlike ART kits, a small machine is needed to confirm the two compounds, so the kit is not for use in general practitioner clinics and polyclinics but for use in hospitals and nursing homes, he added.

Dr Chia said the team would need time to validate the current heart failure kit’s efficacy for testing dengue and it would be some five years before the kit is ready.

The kits, which are commercially available, can be modified to take advantage of a recent finding by a team from Nanyang Technological University’s Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, who identified two compounds that most severe dengue cases actually have.

Dr Chia said the team would need a few years to conduct more trials to adapt the kit.