

Raffles Medical posts Q3 net of \$10.7m

By **NISHA RAMCHANDANI**

PRIVATE healthcare provider Raffles Medical Group posted a 12.9 per cent year-on-year rise in net profit to \$10.68 million for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2010, on the growth of its hospital and healthcare services divisions.

Revenue grew 9.8 per cent to \$60.86 million, from \$55.41 million in Q3 2009. Hospital services revenue grew 15 per cent, while healthcare services revenue was up 4 per cent. Earnings per share were 2.04 cents versus 1.82 cents previously.

Operating profit rose 10.9 per cent to about \$13.2 million.

The group had a net cash position of \$70.9 million at Sept 30, which it said will allow it to fund growth.

This month, Raffles Medical launched a new clinic at Mapletree Business City, and more family medicine clinics are scheduled to open in Q4 of this year.

“We’re keen to grow in the region too if there are suitable opportunities,” executive chairman Loo Choon Yong said at a media briefing yesterday.

In July, Raffles Medical announced that its flagship Raffles Hospital has received permission from the Urban Redevelopment Authority to add 102,408 sq ft of space at its site, which will boost gross floor area there about a third.

This will allow the group to develop new facilities and expand its services.

It said yesterday that architectural consultants are finalising the design for the expansion. After official approval, construction is expected to commence in Q211.

Raffles has also recruited specialists in pain management, cancer, infectious diseases, radiology, geriatric medicine, and respiratory medicine – identified as high-demand specialities in the years ahead.

Shares in Raffles Medical closed at \$2.21 yesterday, up two cents.