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## Tenfold subsidy increase for Henan AIDS patients

**ZHENGZHOU:** People suffering from AIDS/HIV infection in central China's Henan, one of the provinces worst hit by the virus, are to get medical allowance 10 times the current amount, local authorities announced.

Monthly allowance to AIDS/HIV patients will be increased from 20 yuan (RM9.80) to 200 yuan (RM98), the provincial civil affairs department said.

Eighty per cent of the allowance is covered by the provincial government and the rest by the municipal and county governments.

The new standard will be backdated to Oct 1, 2012, with the sums for October and November paid retroactively by the end of this year.

Henan has given additional systematic living allowances to AIDS/HIV patients who receive government subsistence allowance since

2004. Besides the 200 yuan (RM98) monthly sum, AIDS patients can still enjoy the subsistence allowance, which is about 1,500 yuan (RM736) per year for rural residents and 3,120 yuan (RM1,520) per year for urbanites.

Nearly 40,000 AIDS/HIV-infected orphans in the province can enjoy a monthly allowance of 600 yuan (RM294) if raised in families or 1,000 yuan (RM490) if raised in orphanages.

According to figures from the provincial disease control and prevention centre, Henan had reported a total of 55,424 cases of AIDS/HIV by the end of October, including 3,058 new cases this year.

Data from the Health Ministry showed that China had reported a total of 492,191 cases of AIDS/HIV by the end of October, including 68,802 new cases this year. — Xinhua