

Singapore

ADD (no change)

Consensus ratings*: Buy 3	Hold 5 Sell 0
Current price:	S\$1.01
Target price:	S\$1.16
Previous target:	S\$1.20
Up/downside:	14.9%
CGSI / Consensus:	-2.2%
Reuters:	RAFG.SI
Bloomberg:	RFMD SP
Market cap:	US\$1,396m
	S\$1,876m
Average daily turnover:	US\$0.79m
	S\$1.06m
Current shares o/s:	1,860m
Free float: *Source: Bloomberg	43.0%

Key changes in this note

- > Reduce FY24F EPS by 0.6%.
- Reduce FY25F EPS by 2.4%.
- Introduce FY26F estimates.



		Source: B	loomberg
Price performance	1 <i>M</i>	ЗМ	12M
Absolute (%)	-1	-3.8	-31.3
Relative (%)	-1.4	-6.3	-27.9

Major shareholders	% held
Dr. Loo Choon Yong	49.1
Global Alpha Capital Management	7.9

Raffles Medical Group

Normalisation of profitability in 2H23

- 2H23 net profit of S\$30.3m brought FY23 net profit to S\$90.2m, in line at 104.4%/101.3% of our/Bloomberg consensus' estimates.
- EBITDA margins have normalised towards pre-Covid (i.e. FY19) levels, as treatment of Covid-19 becomes part of business-as-usual clinical practice.
- Lower TP to S\$1.16, pegged at 13x FY25F EV/EBITDA (5-year mean) as RFMD. Maintain Add on strong net cash position to position for growth.

Decline in profitability of healthcare services in 2H23...

With most of its remaining Covid-19-related project revenue (i.e. management of Covid-19 facility) tapering off in 1H23, RFMD saw its healthcare services revenue decline 45.6% yoy/32.6% hoh in 2H23. EBITDA margins also declined 34.7% pts yoy/26.8% pts hoh to 15.2% in 2H23, which we think is a normalised margin level for the segment compared to pre-Covid-19 levels of 5.8%-11.8% in FY17-19, as the segment had previously included its lower margin insurance services segment. Since 1H23, RFMD has disclosed its insurance services segment separately with the adoption of SFRS(I) 17 for insurance contracts. The normalised EBITDA margins also suggest that the EBITDA and margin contribution from RFMD's management of the Transitional Care Facility (TCF) in Singapore Expo (Covid-19 facility previously) is likely to have declined, in our view.

...accompanied with margins recovery for its hospital services

On the other hand, RFMD's hospital services segment saw EBITDA margin expand to 20.1% in 2H23 from 9.8% in 1H23. Given the slower pick up in revenue from China (+6.3% hoh) where RFMD has been operating two gestating hospitals (Shanghai and Chongqing), we think that the margin improvement suggests better contribution from its Singapore hospital operations. The segment, which had included contribution from Covid-19 lab tests, had observed depressed EBITDA margins of 8.1%-15.9% since 2H21 after Singapore moved away from extensive Covid-19 testing, as well as nursing additional gestational losses arising from the opening of its Shanghai hospital in FY22.

Reiterate Add; well-positioned for overseas expansion

We adjust our FY24F/25F EPS downwards by 0.6%/2.4% to take into account margin compression from higher insurance services expenses despite higher revenue estimates. We maintain our Add call as we think RFMD's net cash position (ex. lease liabilities) of \$\$272.9m in FY23 (up from \$\$180.1m in FY22), allows RFMD to explore both greenfield and brownfield expansion overseas, given limited opportunities for organic growth in Singapore. RFMD has also maintained its guidance to pay out up to 50% of its profit as dividend to balance between growth and returns to shareholders. Re-rating catalysts: a stronger revenue momentum in China that will accelerate turnaround of its gestating hospitals, and lower loss ratio from its insurance business. Downside risks include prolonged losses from gestating hospitals in China and a lower-than-expected patient load at its Singapore hospital.

Financial Summary	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Revenue (S\$m)	822.9	706.9	707.6	738.9	771.5
Operating EBITDA (S\$m)	252.9	153.2	136.5	143.3	150.4
Net Profit (S\$m)	143.1	90.1	78.9	83.7	90.5
Core EPS (S\$)	0.084	0.049	0.042	0.045	0.049
Core EPS Growth	79.2%	(42.4%)	(12.8%)	6.0%	8.1%
FD Core P/E (x)	11.99	20.75	23.80	22.44	20.76
DPS (S\$)	0.038	0.024	0.020	0.020	-
Dividend Yield	3.76%	2.38%	1.98%	1.98%	0.00%
EV/EBITDA (x)	6.86	10.83	12.11	11.04	10.00
P/FCFE (x)	28.15	11.34	32.44	16.52	15.50
Net Gearing	(15.2%)	(22.5%)	(22.4%)	(27.7%)	(33.1%)
P/BV (x)	1.85	1.83	1.77	1.69	1.62
ROE	15.9%	8.9%	7.6%	7.7%	8.0%
% Change In Core EPS Estimates			(0.62%)	(2.36%)	
EPS/Consensus EPS (x)			0.94	0.92	

SOURCES: CGSLRESEARCH COMPANY REPORTS

Analyst(s)



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Normalisation of profitability in 2H23

Plans for overseas expansion >

In China, RFMD continues to remain focused on turning around its two gestating hospitals (i.e. Shanghai and Chongqing). Management has continued to target EBITDA breakeven in FY25F, which we think will require revenue from China to grow by c.S\$10mp.a. in FY24F and FY25F from S\$59.3m in FY23. Management shared during its analyst briefing on 26 Feb that RFMD is making headway in getting brand recognition for both expats and the local community within the cities.

Apart from turning around its two gestating hospitals in China, RFMD has also entered into a management contract with the owners of American International Hospital (AIH) in Ho Chi Minh City to manage the hospital while RFMD seeks regulatory approval for its intended acquisition of a controlling stake in the hospital. RFMD is also exploring opportunities to extend its presence beyond Ho Chi Minh City to other cities such as Hanoi.

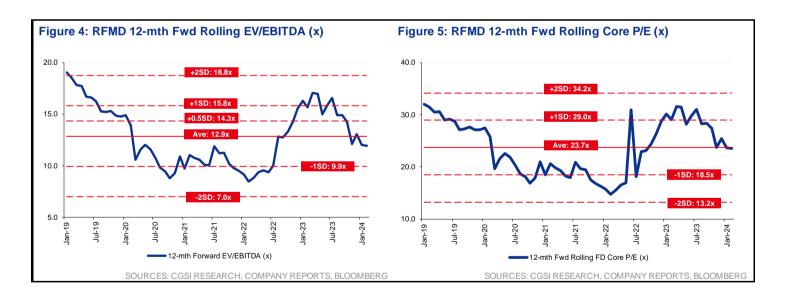
As of 18 Jan 24, RFMD has also acquired the remaining 49% stake in its subsidiary, RSM Ltd, Japan, for a total cash consideration of c.S\$367k. RSM Ltd holds a 100% equity interest in Zui Wai Kai Medical Corporation, which primarily operates RFMD's Osaka clinic. Concurrently, RFMD is looking to expand its footprint in Japan by exploring options to open one clinic in Fukuoka and Tokyo respectively. Nevertheless, we do not expect such expansion to be hefty in capex.

		2H22		yoy		hoh	
FYE Dec (S\$m)	2H23	(restated)*	2H22	% chg	1H23	% chg	Comments
Revenue	336.2	413.2	384.2	-18.6%	370.8	-9.3%	2H23 saw revenue decline 18.6% yoy/9.3% hoh after most Covid-19 related services tapered off in 1H23.
Other operating income	8.2	1.1	1.1	661.3%	8.5	-2.8%	
Inventories and consumables	(28.9)	(29.7)	(29.7)	-2.7%	(29.0)	-0.1%	
Purchased and contracted services	(17.4)	(15.6)	(35.7)	11.2%	(15.3)	13.4%	
Insurance service expenses	(72.4)	(49.5)	-	46.3%	(60.9)	18.9%	
Net reinsurance expenses	(2.2)	(5.9)	-	-62.5%	(1.1)	95.2%	
Staff costs	(144.4)	(141.4)	(145.6)	2.1%	(157.1)	-8.1%	Staff costs as a % to revenue has declined due to SFRS(I)17 as revenue has been restated higher to take into gross insurance contract amount compared ot net insurance contract amount previously.
EBITDA	57.8	128.3	129.1	-55.0%	95.0	-39.2%	
EBITDA margin (%)	17.2%	31.0%	33.6%	-13.9% pts	25.6%	-8.4% pts	Margin compression observed in 2H23 highlights the margins accretive nature of Covid-19-related projects that RFMD had undertaken.
Depreciation and amortisation	(18.6)	(19.0)	(19.6)	-2.1%	(18.4)	1.1%	
Impairments	(0.2)	(17.5)	(17.6)	-98.9%	(0.2)	-9.6%	
Operating lease expenses	(0.8)	(0.8)	(1.0)	-5.8%	(0.8)	1.7%	
Other operating expenses	(20.3)	(25.4)	(26.6)	-19.9%	(19.7)	3.2%	
EBIT	39.1	109.2	109.5	-64.2%	76.6	-48.9%	
EBIT margin (%)	11.6%	26.4%	28.5%	-16.8% pts	20.7%	-9.0% pts	
Finance income	5.2	2.2	2.2	142.0%	4.5	15.4%	RFMD continues to generate net finance income given its strong net cash position.
Finance expense	(3.4)	(3.4)	(3.4)	-0.8%	(2.7)	23.5%	
Pretax profit	41.0	108.0	108.2	-62.0%	78.4	-47.7%	
Tax expense	(10.3)	(24.4)	(24.5)	-57.7%	(18.0)	-42.6%	
Net profit (PATMI)	30.3	83.7	83.8	-63.8%	59.9	-49.4%	



Figure 2: 4Q23/	FY23 results	comparis	son					
			% chg		% chg			
FYE Dec (S\$m)	4Q23	4Q22	yoy	3Q23	pop	Remarks		
Revenue	174.6	195.5	-10.7%	161.6	8.0%	Revenue impro	ved 8.0% qo	q, indicating the normalisation of healthcare demand.
Profit after tax	18.3	45.7	-60.1%	12.4	47.4%			
			% chq	Prev.		Bloomberg		
FYE Dec (S\$m)	FY23	FY22	yoy	FY23F	% of	Consensus	% of	Remarks
Revenue	706.9	822.9	-14.1%	695.8	101.6%	705.6	100.2%	FY23 revenue in line at 101.6%/100.2% of our/Bloomberg consensus' FY23F estimates.
PATMI	90.1	143.1	-37.0%	86.3	104.4%	89.0	101.3%	FY23 PATMI in line at 104.4%/101.3% of our/Bloomberg consensus' FY23F estimates as we have expected the decline in contribution from Covid-19-related services.
								SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS

	New				Old			% change	
S\$m	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY24F	FY25F	FY26F	FY23F	FY24F	FY25F
Revenue	707.6	738.9	771.5	684.9	708.6	N.A.	3.3%	4.3%	N.A
Other operating income	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	N.A.	0.0%	0.0%	N.A
Operating expenses	(475.5)	(491.8)	(508.6)	(592.2)	(608.5)	N.A.	-19.7%	-19.2%	N.A
EBIT	96.4	102.4	108.8	102.8	110.1	N.A.	-6.2%	-7.0%	N.A
EBIT margins (%)	13.6%	13.9%	14.1%	15.0%	15.5%	N.A.	-1.4% pts	-1.7% pts	N.A
EBITDA	136.5	143.3	150.4	142.0	150.1	N.A.	-3.8%	-4.5%	N.A
EBITDA margins (%)	19.3%	19.4%	19.5%	20.7%	21.2%	N.A.	-1.4% pts	-1.8% pts	N.A
Core net profit	78.9	83.7	90.5	79.3	85.6	N.A.	-0.5%	-2.2%	N.A
Core EPS (Scts)	4.24	4.50	4.87	4.27	4.61	N.A.	-0.6%	-2.4%	N.A
No. of shares	1,859.4	1,859.4	1,859.4	1,857.2	1,857.2	N.A.	0.1%	0.1%	N.A





Hospitals | Singapore

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Figure 6: Peers comparison (as of 26 Feb 24)

	Bloomberg		Price	Target Price	Market Cap	Core P/	E (x)	P/BV	(x)	Recurring F	ROE (%)	EV/EBITI	DA (x)	Dividend Y	ield (%)
Company	Ticker	Recom.	(Icl curr)	(Icl curr)	(US\$ m)	CY24F	CY25F	CY24F	CY25F	CY24F	CY25F	CY24F	CY25F	CY24F	CY25F
Raffles Medical Group	RFMD SP	ADD	1.01	1.16	1,396	23.8	22.4	1.8	1.7	7.6%	7.7%	12.0	11.0	2.0%	2.0%
Regional Hospitals															
IHH Healthcare Bhd	IHH MK	Add	6.19	7.70	11,411	26.0	23.3	1.8	1.7	7.2%	7.7%	11.2	10.1	1.3%	1.5%
KPJ Healthcare	KPJ MK	Add	1.67	1.87	1,526	28.9	26.7	2.9	2.8	10.5%	10.7%	9.6	9.2	2.1%	2.3%
Bangkok Chain Hospital	BCH TB	Add	21.60	26.40	1,502	29.7	24.6	3.8	3.5	13.3%	15.0%	15.5	13.5	1.7%	2.0%
Bumrungrad Hospital	BH TB	Hold	235.00	255.00	5,208	25.7	24.5	6.8	6.0	29.1%	26.0%	17.9	17.2	1.9%	2.0%
Bangkok Dusit Med Service	BDMS TB	Add	29.50	33.50	13,071	31.1	29.3	4.6	4.3	15.6%	15.2%	19.2	18.4	1.9%	1.9%
Chularat Hospital	CHG TB	Reduce	2.90	2.88	889	25.9	22.3	4.4	4.3	17.1%	19.5%	17.4	15.6	3.0%	3.5%
Praram 9 Hospital	PR9 TB	Add	18.70	20.00	410	23.3	21.3	2.7	2.5	12.3%	12.2%	11.5	10.6	1.7%	1.9%
Ramkhamhaeng Hospital	RAM TB	Reduce	30.75	38.50	1,029	24.0	20.9	1.8	1.7	7.5%	8.4%	18.6	16.2	2.5%	2.5%
Medikaloka Hermina	HEAL IJ	Add	1265	1800	1,235	26.6	21.6	4.2	3.7	16.7%	18.1%	0.8	0.6	0.7%	1.5%
Mitra Keluarga Karyasehat	MIKA IJ	Hold	2640	2800	2,406	33.6	29.5	5.8	5.2	18.0%	18.5%	20.5	17.8	1.6%	1.6%
Simple average						27.4	24.4	3.9	3.5	14.7%	15.0%	13.9	12.6	1.8%	2.0%

DATA AS AT 26 FEB 24

SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH ESTIMATES, BLOOMBERG, COMPANY REPORTS



Refinitiv ESG Scores









ESG in a nutshell

RFMD scored a combined ESG score of C from Refinitiv in 2022, with a C+ for Environmental (E), B- for Social (S) and C- for Governance (G); The low G pillar score, penalised due to board composition and tenure may be unwarranted, as we think the experience of the board has allowed the organisation to maintain a consistent set of operational principles, especially with the leadership role its founders still play. Given that it operates within the highly regulated healthcare industry in Singapore, RFMD is held to strict operating standards. During the Covid-19 pandemic, RFMD's support of the government's Covid-19 initiatives by providing quality healthcare services (such as community vaccinations, air border screening and management of Covid19 treatment facilities) would also not have been captured in the standard ESG scoring.

Keep your eye on

In our view, RFMD's high staff turnover rate – 32% in FY21 and 36% in FY22 (based on RFMD's sustainability report 2022) – may reflect more of an industry trend rather than a systemic trend observed by RFMD. We do note that RFMD has also increased its average training hours per employee from 2021 to 2022, likely to integrate newer staff, rising from 11.7 hours per employee in 2021 to 19.3 hours per employee in 2022. However, it has discontinued its disclosure of injury rate since FY21.

Implications

We believe the implications of high staff turnover and injury rates would have been reflected in higher staff costs and hospital capacity issues. As such, we have not considered the further impact of higher staff turnover rates in our valuation of RFMD.

ESG highlights

When ranked against four other global peers accessed by Refinitiv, RFMD has a lower ESG score than its European peers but higher than its Asian and US peers. We think the varying healthcare policies to provide the minimum quality of care by different governments could have resulted in the underlying differences between various healthcare players when it comes to ESG.

Implications

Investors could be willing to ascribe a higher premium to RFMD's valuations if its ESG scoring were to improve, in our view. However, we have not factored this into our valuations of RFMD.

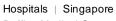
Trends

RFMD's ESG score improved in 2022 by a subgrade from C in FY21 to C+ in FY22, as its Governance pillar score improved from D+ to C- to offset the decline of its Environmental pillar score from C+ to C. Its Social pillar remained constant at C. We think its lack of disclosures is the reason behind a lower ESG score for RFMD.

Implications

RFMD operates in a resource-intensive industry, which could continue to weigh on its ESG scores. We believe this is an issue also faced by its peers and we have not factored in any ESG discounts in our valuation of RFMD as a result.

SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH, REFINITI







BY THE NUMBERS



(S\$m)	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total Net Revenues	830.9	723.6	717.6	748.9	781.5
Gross Profit	406.0	331.5	326.3	344.0	362.6
Operating EBITDA	252.9	153.2	136.5	143.3	150.4
Depreciation And Amortisation	(57.4)	(37.5)	(40.1)	(40.9)	(41.6)
Operating EBIT	195.5	115.8	96.4	102.4	108.8
Financial Income/(Expense)	(4.1)	3.7	6.0	6.3	8.7
Pretax Income/(Loss) from Assoc.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Non-Operating Income/(Expense)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Profit Before Tax (pre-El)	209.6	119.9	102.5	108.7	117.5
Exceptional Items					
Pre-tax Profit	191.3	119.4	102.5	108.7	117.5
Taxation	(48.0)	(28.3)	(23.6)	(25.0)	(27.0)
Exceptional Income - post-tax					
Profit After Tax	143.3	91.1	78.9	83.7	90.5
Minority Interests	(0.2)	(0.9)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Preferred Dividends					
FX Gain/(Loss) - post tax					
Other Adjustments - post-tax					
Net Profit	143.1	90.1	78.9	83.7	90.5
Recurring Net Profit	156.8	90.5	78.9	83.7	90.5
Fully Diluted Recurring Net Profit	156.8	90.5	78.9	83.7	90.5

Cash Flow					
(S\$m)	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
EBITDA	252.9	153.2	136.5	143.3	150.4
Cash Flow from Invt. & Assoc.					
Change In Working Capital	(28.7)	85.3	(53.1)	(3.1)	(5.7)
(Incr)/Decr in Total Provisions					
Other Non-Cash (Income)/Expense					
Other Operating Cashflow	5.3	(3.3)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Interest (Paid)/Received	(4.1)	3.7	6.0	6.3	8.7
Tax Paid	(29.1)	(49.5)	(23.6)	(25.0)	(27.0)
Cashflow From Operations	196.2	189.4	65.9	121.4	126.4
Capex	(25.0)	(20.5)	(20.0)	(20.0)	(20.0)
Disposals Of FAs/subsidiaries	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Acq. Of Subsidiaries/investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Investing Cashflow	2.0	7.6	12.0	12.2	14.7
Cash Flow From Investing	(22.8)	(12.4)	(8.0)	(7.8)	(5.3)
Debt Raised/(repaid)	(106.6)	(11.4)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Proceeds From Issue Of Shares	6.0	7.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shares Repurchased	(24.3)	(5.7)	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dividends Paid	(52.0)	(70.7)	(44.6)	(37.2)	(37.2)
Preferred Dividends					
Other Financing Cashflow	(6.8)	(5.1)	(6.0)	(6.0)	(6.0)
Cash Flow From Financing	(183.7)	(85.5)	(50.6)	(43.2)	(43.2)
Total Cash Generated	(10.3)	91.5	7.3	70.5	78.0
Free Cashflow To Equity	66.8	165.6	57.9	113.7	121.2
Free Cashflow To Firm	180.3	183.1	63.9	119.6	127.1

SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



BY THE NUMBERS... cont'd

Balance Sheet					
(S\$m)	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Total Cash And Equivalents	253	344	350	420	498
Total Debtors	194	80	153	159	166
Inventories	13	12	12	12	13
Total Other Current Assets	0	48	48	48	48
Total Current Assets	460	485	562	640	726
Fixed Assets	739	768	750	731	711
Total Investments	273	246	246	246	246
Intangible Assets	20	19	17	15	13
Total Other Non-Current Assets	5	10	10	10	10
Total Non-current Assets	1,037	1,044	1,023	1,003	981
Short-term Debt	19	26	26	26	26
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt					
Total Creditors	224	211	235	245	256
Other Current Liabilities	83	143	143	143	143
Total Current Liabilities	326	379	404	414	425
Total Long-term Debt	77	82	82	82	82
Hybrid Debt - Debt Component					
Total Other Non-Current Liabilities	56	15	15	15	15
Total Non-current Liabilities	133	97	97	97	97
Total Provisions	8	8	8	8	8
Total Liabilities	467	484	509	519	530
Shareholders' Equity	1,015	1,028	1,062	1,109	1,162
Minority Interests	15	16	16	16	16
Total Equity	1,030	1,044	1,078	1,125	1,178

Key Ratios					
	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Revenue Growth	13.7%	(14.1%)	0.1%	4.4%	4.4%
Operating EBITDA Growth	52.4%	(39.4%)	(10.9%)	4.9%	5.0%
Operating EBITDA Margin	30.7%	21.7%	19.3%	19.4%	19.5%
Net Cash Per Share (S\$)	0.08	0.13	0.13	0.17	0.21
BVPS (S\$)	0.55	0.55	0.57	0.60	0.62
Gross Interest Cover	31.06	19.11	16.14	17.14	18.20
Effective Tax Rate	25.1%	23.7%	23.0%	23.0%	23.0%
Net Dividend Payout Ratio	43.8%	49.3%	47.1%	44.4%	NA
Accounts Receivables Days	78.68	70.82	60.21	77.01	77.02
Inventory Days	11.37	11.90	11.22	10.63	10.80
Accounts Payables Days	205.0	202.2	208.4	216.4	218.4
ROIC (%)	30.7%	17.5%	16.5%	16.7%	18.5%
ROCE (%)	18.7%	11.0%	9.2%	9.4%	9.7%
Return On Average Assets	10.9%	5.8%	4.7%	4.8%	4.9%

Key Drivers					
	Dec-22A	Dec-23A	Dec-24F	Dec-25F	Dec-26F
Inpatient admission volume	17,571.0	18,449.6	19,372.1	20,340.7	N/A
Revenue per patient bed (S\$)	10,899.1	11,029.9	11,162.3	11,296.2	N/A

SOURCES: CGSI RESEARCH, COMPANY REPORTS



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636 companies under coverage for quarter ended on 31 December 2023		
	Rating Distribution (%)	Investment Banking clients (%)
Add	67.5%	1.3%
Hold	22.5%	0.0%
Reduce	10.1%	0.2%



Spitzer Chart for stock being researched (2 year data)

Raffles Medical Group (RFMD SP)



Recommendation Framework			
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