

Healthcare Sector – Neutral

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Earnings Preview

Strong 3Q21F earnings

- We expect strong y-y and q-q earnings growth in 3Q21F.
 - COVID-19 services have been key earnings drivers.
 - Strong y-y growth looks likely to continue in 4Q21F.
 - CHG and BDMS are still our top sector picks.
- We estimate the sector's earnings growth at 117% y-y and 75% q-q in 3Q21, driven by 1) revenue from COVID-19 services including COVID-19 patient admissions in hospitals, hospital-cum-hotels (hospitels) and field hospitals and COVID-19 screening, and 2) margin expansion due to scale benefits.
- We expect THG, BCH and CHG to post the strongest y-y earnings growth in 3Q21F. Meanwhile, we expect hospitals that have high exposure to foreign patients such as BH (67% of total revenue in 2019), BDMS (30% of total revenue) and PR9 (15% of total revenue) to post lower y-y earnings growth compared to mid-tier hospitals that have focused on COVID-19 services due to the impact from falling foreign patients and less of a concentration on COVID services.

Ex 1: 3Q21F Earnings Estimates

	Normalized profit (Bt m)				9M as %		– Change (%) –		Positive / Negative factors	Results Announcement date
	3Q20	2Q21	3Q21F	2021F			Y-Y	Q-Q		
BCH	413	1,146	2,059	114.7	398.1	79.7			■ Revenue from COVID-19 services and margin expansion boosts 3Q21F earnings growth	16-Nov-21
BDMS	1,787	1,452	2,099	70.0	17.4	44.6			■ Revenue from COVID-19 services and margin expansion boosts 3Q21F earnings growth	10-Nov-21
BH	215	212	287	62.1	33.1	35.5			■ Revenue from COVID-19 services and margin expansion boosts 3Q21F earnings growth	4-Nov-21
CHG	282	576	1,057	77.9	275.1	83.5			■ Revenue from hospital/excellence center management, revenue from COVID-19 services and margin expansion boosts 3Q21F earnings	12-Nov-21
LPH	51	85	186	145.5	263.4	119.8			■ Revenue from COVID-19 services and margin expansion boosts 3Q21F earnings growth	10-Nov-21
PR9	72	12	72	58.4	0.1	513.5			■ Revenue from COVID-19 services and margin expansion boosts 3Q21F earnings growth	11-Nov-21
RJH	120	138	361	92.3	199.7	162.1			■ Revenue from COVID-19 services and margin expansion boosts 3Q21F earnings growth	8-Nov-21
RPH	21	14	51	79.6	150.4	265.8			■ Revenue from COVID-19 services and margin expansion boosts 3Q21F earnings growth	8-Nov-21
THG	48	83	335	47.1	604.6	305.6			■ Revenue from COVID-19 services and margin expansion boosts 3Q21F earnings growth	12-Nov-21
Sum	3,010	3,716	6,520	81.2	116.6	75.4				

Sources: Company data; Thanachart estimates

- Looking ahead to 4Q21F, we estimate the sector's y-y earnings growth to remain strong, driven by revenue from COVID-19 services, Moderna vaccine income, and pent-up demand from non-COVID patients under all service schemes (cash, Social Security Scheme [SSS] and the Universal Coverage Scheme [UCS]). However, the sector's earnings will likely soften q-q. Hospitals have reduced their COVID-19 capacity from late-September 2021 after new COVID cases subsided.
- CHG and BDMS are still our top sector picks. We see CHG and BDMS as having a good balance of enjoying both COVID and non-COVID revenue. Thai government's policy to reopen the country in November 2021 provides some risk for rising new COVID cases in Thailand.
- For CHG, we still estimate its 2022F earnings to double from the pre-COVID level in 2019. Excluding the contribution from COVID services, we project CHG's earnings to grow by 12-21% in 2021-23F. CHG is trading at PE of 26.4x 2022F vs. its historical five-year average of 41x and the sector average of 42x, which looks inexpensive to us.
- For BDMS, we see it as a stronger post-COVID turnaround play with 16% EPS growth in 2022F. Key earnings drivers are a Thai and foreign cash-patient rebound.

Ex 2: Healthcare Sector Valuations

	Rating	Current price (Bt)	Target price (Bt)	Upside/ (Downside) (%)	Market cap (Bt m)	Norm EPS growth		Norm PE		Yield	
						2021F (%)	2022F (%)	2021F (x)	2022F (x)	2021F (%)	2022F (%)
BCH	BUY	20.60	30.00	45.6	52,618	150.3	(32.9)	16.7	24.9	3.3	2.2
BDMS	BUY	23.50	27.00	14.9	368,694	15.6	16.1	53.5	46.1	1.0	1.2
BH	HOLD	142.50	136.00	(4.6)	113,626	(20.0)	69.0	118.0	69.8	2.1	2.1
CHG	BUY	3.78	4.80	27.0	42,680	176.2	(34.9)	17.2	26.4	4.1	2.7
LPH	HOLD	5.85	6.50	11.1	4,212	49.6	(13.0)	19.7	22.7	4.1	3.5
PR9	BUY	11.50	11.60	0.9	8,807	3.9	20.0	43.1	35.9	1.0	1.3
RJH	BUY	35.00	42.00	20.0	9,975	76.6	(21.5)	16.0	20.4	5.0	3.9
RPH	BUY	6.15	7.20	17.1	3,358	13.0	18.2	31.7	26.8	2.4	2.8
THG	SELL	33.25	26.00	(21.8)	28,232	na	(5.6)	59.8	63.3	1.1	1.1

Sources: Bloomberg; Thanachart estimates

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