

**For information
8 April 2002**

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services
Manpower Situation of Ancillary Health Care Personnel**

INTRODUCTION

This paper provides information on the manpower situation of ancillary health care personnel, including nurses, radiographers, physiotherapists, medical laboratory technologists, occupational therapists and optometrists.

2. The number of ancillary health care personnel who are registered in Hong Kong is summarized in **Annex A**.

2000 HEALTH MANPOWER SURVEY

3. The 2000 Health Manpower Survey (HMS) was conducted by the Department of Health in July 2000. This is the eighth survey of the same series, with previous rounds conducted in 1980, 1982, 1984, 1987, 1990, 1992 and 1996. The main objectives of the 2000 HMS were to provide updated information on the size and structure of all health care personnel practising in Hong Kong; to study the change in size and composition of the healthcare personnel over the years; and to study the inter-sector flow of different types of health care personnel between 1996 and 2000. The 2000 HMS aimed to cover all health care personnel practising in Hong Kong (except Chinese medicine practitioners whose information will be captured in the registration exercise commencing August 2000). A total of 10 489 institutions in which health care personnel were likely to be employed were covered in the 2000 HMS. The total number of health care personnel covered in the survey amounted to 57 971. The findings relating to ancillary health care personnel are set out below.

(a) Nurses

4. As at 28.2.2002, there were 30 330 registered nurses and 12 362 enrolled nurses registered with the Nursing Council under the Nurses Registration Ordinance (Cap.164).

5. According to the 2000 HMS, 75.2% of registered nurses who reported to be active worked in the Hospital Authority (HA), 8.9% worked in the Government, 10.6% worked in the private sector. In the case of enrolled nurses, 53.9% of the respondents who reported to be active worked in the HA, 20.9% worked in the private sector, 15.9% worked in subvented sector and 9.3% worked in the Government.

6. Analysis on the intersectoral flow based on the active nursing personnel enumerated in the 2000 HMS showed that 90.2% of the registered nurses working in the Government, 94.3% of the registered nurses working in the HA and 84.8% of registered nurses working in the private sector as at 1.7.1996 had remained in the same sector between 1996 and 2000. In the case of EN, 88.9% of those working in Government, 90.5% of those working in the HA and 86.0% of those working the private sector as at 1.7.1996 remained in the same sector between 1996 and 2000.

(b) Radiographers

7. As at 28.2.2002, there were 1 271 diagnostic radiographers and 182 therapeutic radiographers registered with the Radiographers Board under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Cap. 359).

8. According to the 2000 HMS, 56.4% of the active diagnostic radiographers enumerated worked in the HA and 37.6% worked in the private sector. In the case of active therapeutic radiographers enumerated, 89.2% were employed by the HA and 10.0% worked in the private sector.

9. Analysis on the intersectoral flow based on the radiographers enumerated in the 2000 HMS showed that 99.0% of the registered diagnostic radiographers working in the HA and 98.9% of those working in the private sector as at 1.7.1996 had remained in the same sector between 1996 and 2000. In the case of therapeutic radiographers, 98.7% of those working in the HA as at 1.7.1996 remained in the same sector between 1996 and 2000.

(c) Physiotherapists

10. As at 28.2.2002, there were 1 500 physiotherapists registered with

the Physiotherapists Board under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Cap. 359).

11. Based on the 2000 HMS, 59.3% of the active physiotherapists enumerated worked in the HA, 21.5% worked in the private sector and 14.6% worked in the subvented sector. Analysis on the intersectoral flow showed that 88.0% of the physiotherapists working in the HA, 86.1% of those working in the subvented sector and 91.9% of those working in the private sector as at 1.7.1996 had remained in the same sector between 1996 and 2000.

(d) Medical Laboratory Technologists

12. As at 28.2.2002, there were 2 475 medical laboratory technologists registered with the Medical Laboratory Technologists Board under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Cap. 359).

13. Based on the 2000 HMS, 52.3% of the active medical laboratory technologists enumerated worked in the HA, 26.7% were in the private sector and 16.3% were employed by the Government. Most of the active medical laboratory technologists enumerated remained in the same sector between 1996 and 2000.

(e) Occupational Therapists

14. As at 28.2.2002, there were 913 occupational therapists registered with the Occupational Therapists Board under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Cap. 359).

15. Based on the 2000 HMS, 61.0% of the active occupational therapists enumerated worked in the HA, 15.9% were employed by the subvented sector and another 15.9% worked in the private sector. Analysis on the intersectoral flow showed that most of those working in the Government (89.5%), the HA (85.6%) and the academic sector (100.0%) as at 1.7.1996 remained in the same sector between 1996 and 2000.

(f) Optometrists

16. As at 28.2.2002, there were 1 878 optometrists registered with the Optometrists Board under the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Cap. 359).

17. Based on the 2000 HMS, 96.2% of the active optometrists enumerated worked in the private sector. Most of the active optometrists enumerated remained in the same sector between 1996 and 2000.

SUPPLY OF ANCILLARY HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL

18. University Grants Committee (UGC) funded programmes of ancillary health care personnel related disciplines at sub-degree and undergraduate levels are offered by The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong (PolyU) and the University of Hong Kong (HKU). The planned number of student intake for 2002/03 and 2003/04 for the respective programmes is set out at **Annex B**.

19. Aside from local universities graduates, the current supply of fresh registered nurses in Hong Kong consists of graduates from Hospital Authority (HA) nursing schools and nurse trained outside Hong Kong who are registered with the Nursing Council of Hong Kong. For the local graduates, the HA employs all its graduates from its own nursing schools and about 80% to 90% of the graduates from local universities each year. The remaining local graduates may obtain employment with the Department of Health or in the private and welfare sectors. In the light of development pertaining to the upgrading of basic nursing education from hospital-based nursing education to degree level in tertiary institutes, HA ceased intake of nursing students in September 1999.

20. To meet the projected demand for nursing manpower in respect of the welfare sector, we have requested and HA has agreed to run a 3-year High Diploma Programme in Nursing in 2002 and 2003. We understand that HA is seeking accreditation of this programme to associate degree.

21. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.

Health and Welfare Bureau
March 2002

Number of Ancillary Health Care Personnel Registered in Hong Kong
(as at 28.2.2002)

Type of Health Care Personnel	Number
Registered Nurse	30 330
Enrolled Nurse	12 362
Radiographer (Diagnostic)	1 271
Radiographer (Therapeutic)	182
Physiotherapist	1 500
Medical Laboratory Technologist	2 475
Occupational Therapist	913
Optometrist	1 878
Total	50 911

Note: Figures refer to the number of healthcare personnel on respective registers maintained by the Boards and Councils Office.

Annex B**Planned Student Intakes of UGC-funded Ancillary Health Care Personnel Related Programmes**

Type of Ancillary Health Care Personnel	Institution	Programme	Planned Intakes (headcount)	
			2002/03	2003/04
Nurse	CUHK	B of Nursing (Pre-registration)	121	138
	PolyU	HD in Nursing	230	230
		BSc (Hons) in Nursing	108	127
	HKU	B of Nursing	112	130
Radiographer	PolyU	BSc (Hons) in Radiography	36	42
Physiotherapist	PolyU	BSc (Hons) in Physiotherapy	105	80
Medical Laboratory Technologist	PolyU	HD in Biomedical Science	40	40
Occupational Therapist	PolyU	BSc (Hons) in Occupational Therapy	65	50
Optometrist	PolyU	BSc (Hons) in Optometry	42	30