

LegCo Panel on Health Services

Remodelling of the Tang Shiu Kin Hospital into an Ambulatory Care Centre

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the remodelling of the Tang Shiu Kin Hospital (TSKH) into an ambulatory care centre.

Background

2. One of the main issues facing the Hong Kong East cluster is the provision of adequate health care services to cope with the service demand of its ageing population. The growing elderly population of the cluster (with 12% aged 65 or above) has been exerting increasing pressure on the capacity of the nine hospitals and outpatient facilities within the cluster. Rationalization of the hospital services within the cluster is necessary in order to optimize the use of available resources to meet the escalating demand. At present, the five facilities in the Causeway Bay – Wanchai district, namely Ruttonjee Hospital (RH), TSKH, Tung Wah Eastern Hospital (TWEH), Tang Chi Ngong Specialist Clinic (TCNSC) and Southorn Centre (SC), are located in close proximity and with a number of services duplicated. For more efficient and effective delivery of health care services, the service provision of these institutions has to be rationalized having regard to the community health care needs. Under this rationalization programme, TWEH has been redesignated as a major rehabilitation hospital cum ophthalmology centre, RH as an acute general hospital absorbing and consolidating all acute services provided at TSKH, and TSKH as an ambulatory care centre.

3. Due to historical reasons, the provision of ambulatory services in the Causeway Bay - Wan Chai District is scattered in various medical facilities. These ambulatory services include the Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Out-patient Departments, the Psychiatric Day Centre and the Community Nursing Service Centre at SC, the Geriatric Day Hospital and the Dementia Day Centre at RH, the Integrated Clinic at

TSKH, and the Specialist Out-patient Clinics (SOPCs) and the Dietetic Information Centre at TCNSC. While the SOPCs at TCNSC will be relocated to RH so as to provide integrated secondary care at RH, the Hospital Authority (HA) proposes to centralize all other ambulatory services at TSKH to enhance cost-effectiveness in the delivery of service, and better coordinate professional manpower and expertise to meet the rehabilitation and community care needs of the local population.

The Remodelling Project

4. The advent of new and innovative technologies in both the surgical and medical fields, coupled with the recognition of the importance of preventive care, has resulted in a world-wide trend towards the provision of health care on ambulatory rather than inpatient basis. To enhance ambulatory care in the Hong Kong East cluster, HA has decided to remodel TSKH as an ambulatory care centre by consolidating existing ambulatory care services in the Causeway Bay – Wanchai district under one roof and expanding the scope of the ambulatory care facilities offered to better serve the health care needs of the community. The additional services to be introduced include a Rehabilitation Centre for Cardiac, Pulmonary and Neurology, and a Family Medicine Training Centre. HA will also expand the capacity of the Dementia Day Centre relocated from RH to meet the increasing needs of the ageing population in the Hong Kong East cluster.

5. The capital cost of the remodelling project is estimated to be in the region of \$247 million. The remodelling works will take about two years to complete. We shall, in April/May, seek the approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council to embark on the project.

Advice Sought

6. Members are requested to note the content of this paper.

Health and Welfare Bureau
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