



HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR NURSING EDUCATION LIMITED

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By fax 2509 9055
 29 December 2003

Ms Amy Lee
 Clerk to Subcommittee

Dear Ms Lee,

Panel on Health Services

Subcommittee to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the SARS Expert Committee and the Hospital Authority Review Panel on the SARS outbreak

Thank you very much for inviting the Hong Kong Society for Nursing Education to give views on the recommendations of the SARS Expert Committee and the Hospital Authority Review Panel on the SARS Outbreak. In general, the recommendations in the report are comprehensive. It encompassed planning, implementation, and responsibilities for various organizations and service providers. The following is our comments to the report:

SARS Expert Committee


1. The proposed Center for Health Protection (CHP) serves as the central agency with statutory power for infectious disease control as well as other aspects of health protection. This is an important strategy as the present health resources are largely focused in hospital services. Many of the recommendations in the report are heavily relied on community effort as well as collaboration with service providers outside the public medical and health care system.
2. Adequacy of statutory power of CHP and sufficient funding is an important consideration to ensure the smooth running of the suggested activities.
3. We believe surge capacity is an important element that needs to be looked at. That is, the number of infectious disease nurses available in the health care system, and the training provided for this speciality and to the other generic nurses in meeting the effectiveness of infection control.
4. In terms of organization and structure, we certainly concur with the recommendation that there is a need to streamline the structure for better communication.
5. In terms of research, we believe there is a need for not just randomised controlled trials but also qualitative studies on the effect of PPE on the staff's performance as well as its psychosocial impact for instance.
6. Communication to the public is utmost important. Capacity to make the situation transparent to the public is the cornerstone for misconception and perhaps a sense of control.

HA Review Panel on SARS outbreak

1. Although the HA agreed to work closely with other agencies to educate the community, no concrete plan is given on how this could be achieved. We believe the HA should work closely with Department of Health so that education to the community can be implemented more effectively without duplication of services.
2. We believe outreach teams can actively participate in the provision of health education to the community and work closely with other agencies.
3. The report did not state any strategies for disease prevention and control for outreach team such as CGAT and Community Nursing. We believe a protocol should be developed on disease prevention and control in the provision of outreach services.

Please contact me (tel: 2609 6222) for any further information that you may require. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sally Chan', followed by a horizontal line.

Sally Chan
Chairperson
Hong Kong Society for Nursing Education