



香港執業藥劑師協會

THE PRACTISING PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG

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Dr Hon Kowk Ka-ki,
Chairman,
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council,
HKSAR

Dr Hon Cheung Chiu Hung,
Chairman,
Panel on Social Services
Legislative Council,
HKSAR

Dear Dr Kwok and Dr Cheung,

Joint Panel on Health Services & Social Services Meeting on 15 May 2006
Agenda II – Drug Management and Administration in Care and Attention Homes for
the Elderly

This submission is prepared and written by the Practising Pharmacists Association of Hong Kong on behalf of its 450 pharmacist members who work mostly in the pharmacies in the community sector.

First of all, it is necessary to point out that in Hong Kong, by the unique nature of its health service delivery model, the system of Primary Healthcare is not fully established. Primary Healthcare integration system should be introduced and involve not only family doctors but also other allied healthcare professionals. Family doctors cannot fight and win a lone battle especially in the provision of medical services to over 500 privately run care and attention elderly homes including the administration and supervision of medication. The key of success in the Primary Healthcare System is “Patient and Preventive Care” through “Collaboration”.

With the collaboration with other health professionals to tackle the patients' problems from all angles by developing a platform for case referral, exchange information among related professional care, medical professionals could concentrate more on diagnosis whereas the allied health professionals could contribute where and when there is a need from patients on preventive care.

"Neighbourhood Pharmacy" with the enhanced services will be the collaboration model we could adopt to promote the pharmaceutical care in the community and elderly homes. This may serve as one of the feasible solutions to stop the present ongoing problems of mishandling and wrong administration of drugs for elders who suffer from poor health or physical and mild mental disabilities with deficiency in activities of daily living.

In attempting to address the problem in this poor medicines management for the frail, the elderly and those with learning difficulties or mental health problems in private homes, a public-private interface pilot project has been initiated earlier this year in the Hong Kong West Cluster. Our association works closely with the hospital pharmacists in the Queen Mary Hospital by following up discharged patients' medication profiles with the "Check and Trace" system in order to prevent poly-pharmacy, avoid drug interaction and improve on drug compliance. Ten private homes in the area have participated and now enjoying the pharmaceutical care services from the pharmacists in the community.

"Patient and Drug Safety" are always our top priority and in relation to this specific report of incident, our association suggests that pharmacists could make an initial assessment visit to private homes, then follow-up visits to install a proper drug dispensing system and then monitor the operation of system in a regular basis. It is important for the pharmacists to ensure that appropriate systems are in place for the ordering, storing, administering and disposing of medicines, and the recording of these actions.

The pharmacists will also provide training on medicines and the systems to care home staff, elderly, social workers, volunteers and nurses. Our association has a good track record by running educational programmes with the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Welfare Council, Wong Tai Sin District Elderly Community Centre for the past three years. It has been proven that pharmacists can play a role in maintaining a balanced and healthy society by helping patients to make better use of their medicines, promoting healthier lifestyles, and providing community pharmacy services to meet the growing healthcare needs of the Hong Kong aged population.

We have at present, almost 500 full time community pharmacists that could work closely with private homes in the setting up of systems for proper medicines management. Our association is here to offer solutions by extending our pharmaceutical care services in all private homes in Hong Kong so that foreseeable disastrous consequences that are so costly in both financial and human terms could be truly avoided.

Yours faithfully,



Billy Chung Wing-ming
President