

LEGCO PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES

Subcommittee on Review of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme

Medical Needs of Elderly Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Recipients

PURPOSE

This paper provides information on the provision of medical services to elderly recipients under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme.

BACKGROUND

2. The CSSA Scheme, whilst seeking to meet the basic needs of those who cannot support themselves financially, takes special care of the elderly through the provision of higher standard rates, special grants (including payments to cover the costs of glasses, dentures, removal expenses, fares to hospital/clinic, medically recommended diets and appliances) and an annual long term supplement. As at the end of May 2007, 187 075 elders aged 60 or above were on CSSA. The average monthly CSSA payment for a singleton elderly recipient is \$3,740.

3. In 2006-07, the expenditure on public health care services for elders provided through the Hospital Authority (HA) and the Department of Health was about \$13.6 billion. Services to the elders accounted for about 45.8 % of the cost of services of the HA. Elders aged 65 or above take up about 50 % of the total bed days in public hospitals.

SPECIAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

4. (a) Consultation and treatment from Chinese medicine practitioners, bone setters and acupuncturists

Chinese medicine service is widely available at reasonable and affordable prices in the private sector. The monthly standard payment rate of CSSA elder recipients has been increased by \$380 since 1 April 1998 to cater for their psycho-social needs such as eating-out, medication, and other social activities which are not essential needs of living that the CSSA standard payments seek to provide for the elders. The standard payment rates under the CSSA Scheme are adjusted annually to take account of inflation.

There are also a number of Chinese medicine clinics and mobile clinic vans run by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide free or low-cost Chinese medicine services to those in need. They are serving a large number of patients. For example, in 2006, the Tung Wah Hospital and Kwong Wah Hospital Chinese Medicine Clinics, which offers free consultation service, had a recorded patient attendance of 388 894 (40 992 for general consultation and 347 902 for bone-setting). The various clinics and clinic vans run by Yan Oi Tong, Pok Oi Hospital and Yan Chai Hospital Board had a total recorded patient attendance of 261 669 (142 513 for general consultation, 113 177 for acupuncture and 5 979 for bone-setting).

The HA has, since late 2003, established nine public Chinese medicine out-patient clinics (CMCs) to develop “evidence-based” Chinese medicine practice and provide training for local graduates. We intend to set up five more CMCs and the funding proposal, which was supported by the Public Works Subcommittee at its meeting on 6 June 2007, will be submitted to the Finance Committee on 22 June 2007. A list of the 14 CMCs is at Annex.

In these CMCs, at least 20% of the consultation places will be allocated for CSSA patients. The fee of \$120 for general consultation with two doses of herbal medicines will be waived.

(b) Treatment from private registered western medical practitioners

Under the current medical fee waiver mechanism, patients who are recipients of CSSA can obtain free medical treatment at public

hospitals and clinics already. We do not see the need to further expand the scope for CSSA Scheme in this aspect.

(c) Patent Medicine and Drug

At present, the HA is providing drugs and medicine listed in the HA Drug Formulary to patients for treatment at highly-subsidised rates. The drug charges are included in the standard fees and charges of HA's services, for which CSSA recipients do not need to pay.

On the other hand, there are some non-standard drugs¹ not included in the HA Drug Formulary. Patients who require treatment by these drugs have to purchase the drugs at their own cost. That said, the HA will provide financial assistance via the Samaritan Fund to the needy patients, including CSSA recipients, for purchasing these non-standard drugs and ensure that no one will be denied treatment because of lack of means.

5. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

**Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Social Welfare Department
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¹ These drugs include drugs that have proven to be of significant benefits to patients but extremely expensive for the HA to provide as part of its subsidized service, and drugs that may only have preliminary medical evidence or marginal benefits or are for meeting the needs of individual life style. Given the principle of equitable and rational use of public resources, patients who require these drugs for treatment and can afford to pay should pay for these drugs at their own expenses.

Public Chinese Medicine Clinics (CMCs)
公營中醫診所

Existing Public CMCs

現時的公營中醫診所

District 地區	Name of Clinic 診所名稱	Address 地址
Central & Western 中西區	TWGHs Tung Wah Hospital - The University of Hong Kong Clinical Centre for Teaching and Research in Chinese Medicine 東華三院東華醫院－香港大學中醫藥臨床教研中心	G/F & 1/F, Yeo Wing (Specialist Outpatient Department), Tung Wah Hospital, 12 Po Yan Street, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong 香港上環普仁街十二號東華醫院楊國璋樓地下及一樓（中醫專科門診部）
Tsuen Wan 荃灣	Yan Chai Hospital Chinese Medicine Clinic cum Research Centre 仁濟醫院中醫門診暨科研中心	2/F, Block E, Yan Chai Hospital, 7-11, Yan Chai Street, Tsuen Wan, New Territories 新界荃灣仁濟街7-11號仁濟醫院E座二樓
Tai Po 大埔	Nethersole Chinese Medicine Clinical Research & Services Centre 那打素中醫藥臨床研究服務中心	G/F, Block J, Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital, 11 Chuen On Road, Tai Po, New Territories 新界大埔全安路11號雅麗氏何妙齡那打素醫院J座地下
Wanchai 灣仔	The Hong Kong Tuberculosis Association Chinese Medicine Clinic cum Training Centre of the University of Hong Kong 香港防癆會中醫診所暨香港大學中醫臨床教研中心	2/F, Tang Shiu Kin Hospital Community Ambulatory Care Centre, 282 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong 香港灣仔皇后大道東282號鄧肇堅醫院社區日間醫療中心2樓
Sai Kung (Tseung Kwan O) 西貢 (將軍澳)	Haven of Hope Christian Service and Hong Kong Baptist University Chinese Medicine Clinic cum Clinical Research Centre 基督教靈實協會暨香港浸會大學中醫診所及臨床教研中心	1/F, Tseung Kwan O Hospital, 2 Po Ning Lane, Hang Hau, Tseung Kwan O, Kowloon 將軍澳坑口寶寧里2號將軍澳醫院1樓
Yuen Long 元朗	The Pok Oi Hospital Chinese Medicine Polyclinic cum The Chinese University of Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Training & Research Centre 博愛醫院綜合中醫診所暨香港中文大學中醫臨床教研中心	3/F, Yuen Long Madam Yung Fung Shee Health Centre, 26 Sai Ching Street, Yuen Long, New Territories 元朗西菁街26號容鳳書健康中心3樓

District 地區	Name of Clinic 診所名稱	Address 地址
Tuen Mun 屯門	Yan Oi Tong Chinese Medicine Polyclinic cum The Chinese University of Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Clinical Training and Research Centre 仁愛堂綜合中醫診所暨香港中文大學中醫臨 床教研中心	5/F, Yan Oi Polyclinic, 6 Tuen Lee Street, Tuen Mun, New Territories 新界屯門屯利街 6 號仁愛分科診所 5 樓
Kwun Tong 觀塘	United Christian Chinese Medicine Service cum The Chinese University of Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Clinical Training and Research Centre 基督教聯合中醫服務暨香港中文大學中醫臨 床教研中心	4/F, Ngau Tau Kok Jockey Club Clinic, 60 Ting On Street, Ngau Tau Kok, Kowloon 九龍牛頭角 60 號定安街牛頭角賽馬會 診所 4 樓
Kwai Tsing 葵青	Yan Chai Hospital cum Hong Kong Baptist University Chinese Medicine Clinic cum Training and Research Centre 仁濟醫院暨香港浸會大學中醫診所及臨床教 研中心	G/F, Ha Kwai Chung Polyclinic & Special Education Services Centre, 77 Lai Cho Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories 新界葵涌麗祖路 77 號下葵涌分科診所 及特殊教育服務中心地下

Public CMCs under Planning

計劃開設的中醫診所

District 地區	Sites 選址
Eastern 東區	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital 東區尤德夫人那打素醫院
Wong Tai Sin 黃大仙	Buddhist Hospital 佛教醫院
Sham Shui Po 深水埗	Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices 長沙灣政府合署
Shatin 沙田	Shatin Clinic 沙田診所
North 北區	Fanling Health Centre 粉嶺健康中心