



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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16 July 2010

Ms Mary So
Clerk to Panel
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Central

By Fax : 2509 0775

Dear Ms So,

Final Report on Doctor Work Reform

I refer to item 3 of LC Paper No. CB(2)1758/09-10(02). At the Panel meeting held on 12 April 2010, the Administration was requested to provide –

- (a) information on the activities undertaken by on-site on-call public doctors and the number of public doctors undertaking on-site on-call duties for 24 hours or more in one go in four months' time; and
- (b) a written response on whether there were cases whereby frontline doctors of public hospitals were ordered by their supervisors not to record overtime beyond rostered hours.

We have earlier provided response to item (b) vide our letter to you on 28 May 2010. Our further response on item (a) is as follows.

The Hospital Authority (HA) conducted a study in 2007 to examine the nature and pattern of activities of doctors during on-site call. A total of 159 doctors performing on-site call were invited to take part in the study and make self-report on types of activities undertaken during each on-site call and the time spent on these activities. HA has received response for 192 out of the 208 on-site calls during the 5-day study period, representing a response rate of over 92%. The types of activities carried out by doctors during on-site call and the respective portion of time spent as indicated by the study are set out below:

- (i) performance of clinical tasks including providing treatment and procedures for patients, performing operations, providing advice or order on management of patients, preparing medical reports and meeting with patients' relatives to explain patients' condition, etc (37%);
- (ii) performance of technical tasks including blood-taking (7%);
- (iii) taking of rest (12%); and
- (iv) performance of other self-arranged activities not specified by the doctors (44%).

When HA recently invited frontline doctors to participate in a similar study for obtaining updated information, the doctors were however generally reluctant to take part given the time-consuming and tedious self-reporting process involved. HA considers given that the current pattern of on-call activities of doctors should be largely similar to that in 2007 having regard to the growth of demand for clinical service and corresponding changes in manpower in the past few years. Hence, HA has decided not to re-run the study.

Meanwhile, HA has conducted another exercise from July to December 2009 to monitor the work hour of doctors. A snapshot study on one weekday within the period showed that there were 177 doctors (about 3.4% of total HA doctors) undertaking on-site on-call duties for 24 hours or more in one go.

HA will continue to engage the doctors and stakeholders in taking forward the doctor work reform initiatives, with a view to further enhancing the working condition of frontline doctors.

Yours sincerely,



(Kirk Yip)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Hospital Authority