



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

Our Ref. : L/M to FHB/H/1/5/4/2 Pt.2  
Your Ref. : CB2/PS/5/10

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27 April 2012

Ms Elyssa WONG  
Clerk to Subcommittee  
Subcommittee on Health Protection Scheme  
Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council Complex  
1, Legislative Council Road  
Central

Dear Ms WONG,

**Panel on Health Services  
Subcommittee on Health Protection Scheme**

**Follow-up to the meeting on 16 April 2012**

I refer to your letter of 18 April 2012 on the captioned. The requested supplementary information on items (a), (b), (d) and (e) is provided at **Annex**. Information on item (c) will be provided as soon as practicable.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheung-yuen LEE', written over a white background.

( Sheung-yuen LEE )  
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Hospital Authority (Attn.: Dr W L CHEUNG)

**Administration's Response to**  
**Follow-up to the meeting of Subcommittee on Health Protection**  
**Scheme of the Panel on Health Services on 16 April 2012**

*Item (a) -*

*Reasons for a shortage of doctors in public hospitals in meeting the service demand for public healthcare services despite an increase in the number of doctors employed by the Hospital Authority ("HA") from 1998 to 2011.*

Administration's response

2. The Hospital Authority (HA)'s manpower of doctor increased from about 3 500 in 1998/99 to about 5 100 in 2010/11. The annualized growth rate is about 3%. Despite the increase in doctor manpower, there is a shortage of doctors due to the ageing population, the development of more advanced medical technologies and the introduction of new services during the same period. All these factors led to a soaring demand in doctor manpower. For example, the impact on hospital service of the aging population is reflected by a higher number of admissions of elder and their longer length of stay, which is 9.7 days on average for an elder patient compared to 5.3 days for a non-elder patient. The development of more advanced medical technologies also requires more specialists' throughput. HA's introduction of a wide range of new services in recent years, such as family medicine specialist clinic, primary care services and the community outreach services, also increase the manpower requirement for doctors.

*Item (b) -*

*Indicators adopted for measuring the service throughput of HA and the rationale for their adoption.*

Administration's response

3. Indicators adopted for measuring the service throughput of HA are set out in the annual Controlling Officer's Report of the Draft Estimates to the Legislative Council. These indicators reflect the activity level of the key services of HA which cover the following areas:

- (i) Inpatient services such as the number of discharges and deaths, number of patient days and bed occupancy rates;
- (ii) Ambulatory care services measured in terms of number of attendances, covering mainly accident and emergency service, day hospital service and outpatient service; and
- (iii) Community and outreach services measured in terms of number of attendances and visits.

4. The service throughput indicators were adopted based on the following criteria:

- (i) Relevance to the overall corporate priorities and organizational objectives of HA;
- (ii) Availability of automated data to provide reliable information and minimize manual efforts in the collection of data and compilation of reports; and
- (iii) Materiality of the indicator in driving changes for quality and efficient care.

Item (d) –

*Any shortfall between the projected nursing staff establishment and strength in the coming years.*

Administrations' response

5. In 2012-13, HA plans to recruit about 2 000 nurses. It is envisaged that manpower shortage will be eased with the recruitment of additional nurses. For the coming years, it is envisaged that the number of nurse graduates will be greater than that of the past years.

Item (e) –

*Any improvement in the manning ratios of doctors and nurses as compared to the situation in 1998.*

Administrations' response

6. In line with service growth and demand, the numbers of doctors and nurses manpower in HA have recorded a net increase since 1998. The number of qualified doctors increased by about 46%, from about 3 500 in 1998/99 to about 5 100 in 2010/11. The number of qualified nurses increased by about 18%, from about 16 700 in 1998/99 to 19 700 in 2010/11.

**Food and Health Bureau**  
**April 2012**