

**For discussion
on 12 March 2012**

Legislative Council Panel on Health Services

Expansion of United Christian Hospital

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the proposed expansion of United Christian Hospital (UCH).

Background

2. At present, the Hospital Authority (HA) provides medical services for the Kwun Tong and Tseung Kwan O districts through its Kowloon East (KE) cluster, which comprises UCH, Tseung Kwan O Hospital and Haven of Hope Hospital. UCH is a regional acute general hospital with about 1 400 beds, providing a comprehensive range of acute, extended care, ambulatory and community medical services to the local community.

3. UCH was established in 1973 and had an extension project completed in 1999. Since then, the population of Kwun Tong, which falls within the service catchment area of the hospital, has grown from 562 400 in 2001 to 614 700 in 2010. According to the latest projection of the Planning Department, the population in Kwun Tong will reach around 666 900 by 2019, and the population in the KE cluster as a whole will increase from 975 800 in 2010 to around 1 097 000 in 2019. Public hospital services in the KE cluster will be insufficient to meet the increasing needs arising from the anticipated population growth. Moreover, the elderly population aged 65 or above in the KE cluster is projected to increase from 132 800 in 2010 to 168 700 in 2019. The aging population and increase in health awareness of people contribute to the increasing demand for comprehensive medical care from the community.

4. It is necessary to improve and enhance the facilities in UCH to provide adequate space and capacity to cope with the anticipated growth in demand for both ambulatory and in-patient services in the KE cluster.

Need for Expansion of UCH

Ambulatory Care Service

5. The demand for specialist out-patient (SOP) consultation services at Block S in UCH has grown significantly over the years. The number of SOP attendances increased by some 80% from 283 000 since its commissioning in 1996 to 510 000 in 2010. The existing facilities are inadequate to meet the high service demand and present-day service requirements in terms of space, provision and design. The physical constraints of the current SOP department have also limited the provision of additional clinic facilities to cope with the growing demand. It is necessary to expand the space and facilities of the existing SOP department in UCH, which will not only provide a patient-centred environment to meet service demand, but will also help to shorten waiting time and reduce the risk of cross infection among patients. It is planned to expand the SOP from around 3 600 m² to around 19 000 m², with the number of consultation rooms to be increased from 81 to around 180.

6. With the advancement of medical technology, the trend of medical treatment is to focus on ambulatory care service in order to reduce the burden on acute in-patient services. As the existing main hospital building of UCH was planned in late 1980s, the provision of ambulatory services is limited. At present, day care services can only be provided in a limited scale and the space constraint has hindered the development of ambulatory services in the hospital. It is proposed to enhance ambulatory care services at UCH for more effective care of patients and efficient use of resources. Some designated centres such as Continence Care Centre and Adolescent Health Centre will be developed and the existing Diabetes Centre and Breast Centre will be expanded under the current proposal to provide comprehensive and integrated healthcare services.

Cancer Service

7. There were nearly 20 000 new oncology cases in the HA in 2010 and about 2 800 new patients or 14% of the total were residents of the KE cluster. At present, cancer service for patients in the KE cluster is relatively limited, covering only day chemotherapy for new cancer patients. After diagnosis and surgery, UCH has to refer most cancer patients to Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (PYNEH) or to Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) outside the KE cluster for radiotherapy and/or chemotherapy treatments. In 2010, about 31 500 attendances at PYNEH and QEH oncology clinics were residents of the KE cluster. It is proposed to develop an Oncology Centre at the UCH to provide radiotherapy, chemotherapy and psycho-social care, which will alleviate the need to transfer patients across clusters and improve accessibility to cancer service for patients in the KE cluster. The new Oncology Centre will have a total floor area of around 11 000 m².

In-patient Convalescent and Rehabilitation Service

8. The in-patient convalescent and rehabilitation service in KE cluster is inadequate. Currently, the extended care services of UCH are supplemented by around 230 convalescent/rehabilitation/infirmarary beds in Kowloon Hospital (KH) of the Kowloon Central cluster. In 2010, there were around 2 600 transfers from UCH to KH. The expansion in the capacity of convalescent and rehabilitation service at UCH with additional extended care wards will cater for the increasing medical needs of the growing and ageing population in the KE cluster, reduce cross-cluster transfers and enhance continuity of care, especially in the context of community support networks such as social welfare services, non-governmental organization support, community nursing services and housing arrangements, etc.

Accident and Emergency (A&E) Service

9. The current space of the A&E Department at UCH is already fully utilized leaving no room for the provision of an Emergency Medicine (EM) Ward to help reduce the in-patient burden and avoid unnecessary hospitalization. There is also a need to expand the existing A&E Department to enhance operational efficiency through co-location of related services to streamline patients' flow and facilitate multi-disciplinary collaboration. The A&E Department will be expanded from around 1 800 m² to around 5 200 m² to cater for the provision of an EM Ward as well as additional treatment facilities.

Other Services

10. Apart from the above, improvement, expansion and/or rationalization of other acute services, including operating theatres, coronary care unit and intensive care unit, will be carried out. In addition, medical technology provisions will be modernized and upgraded to support the future model of care.

The Proposed Project

11. The proposed scope of the project comprises demolition of three existing hospital blocks and an annex building for the construction of a new ambulatory block. An extension to one of the existing hospital blocks, namely Block S, will also be constructed. The areas vacated at the existing hospital blocks will be converted and renovated for the improvement, expansion and rationalization of clinical and supporting services. We expect that the total number of beds will be increased from about 1 400 to around 1 700 after the expansion. During the construction period, all the clinical and allied health services will be maintained at UCH. Patient services will not be affected.

12. The new ambulatory block will accommodate the following new and existing non-in-patient services and facilities-

- (a) Specialist Out-patient Department;
- (b) Psychiatric Out-patient Department and Day Hospital;
- (c) Electro-diagnostic Unit;
- (d) Multi-specialty Day Centre;
- (e) Various ambulatory centres such as Renal Dialysis Centre, Diabetes Centre, Breast Centre, Continence Care Centre, and Adolescent Health Centre;
- (f) Allied Health Out-patient Services and Medical Social Services Department;
- (g) Oncology Centre;
- (h) Pathology Department;
- (i) Hong Kong Poison Information Centre;
- (j) Training Centre and department offices; and
- (k) Ancillary facilities including administrative and supporting services such as Medical Records Department and stores, callrooms/overnight rooms, staff changing rooms, staff recreational facilities and carparks.

13. The extension wing to Block S will accommodate the following new and existing services and facilities –

- (a) Endoscopy Centre;
- (b) Peri-operative Centre;
- (c) In-patient ward accommodation; and
- (d) Department offices.

14. Details of the decanting arrangement, permanent accommodation of the various facilities including those currently housed in Blocks F, G and H

and low block of Block P, and the expanded facilities to be accommodated in the existing blocks will be considered in the detailed design and planning stage.

15. Plans showing the existing layout of UCH and the proposed expansion are at **Enclosures I and II** respectively.

Project Implementation

16. The proposed project will be implemented in two stages -

(a) Stage I – preparatory works, covering –

- (i) site investigation;
- (ii) building survey;
- (iii) decanting works; and
- (iv) consultancy services for outline sketch design, detailed design, as well as tender documentation and assessment for the main works in Stage II.

(b) Stage II – main works, covering –

- (i) demolition of existing Blocks F, G and H and low block of Block P;
- (ii) construction of a new ambulatory block (i.e. Block A) ;
- (iii) construction of an extension to Block S;
- (iv) construction of linkages between blocks;
- (v) refurbishment of part of Blocks P and S for expansion of facilities following decanting of the services and facilities to the new block and the new extension block; and
- (vi) landscaping and road works.

17. The estimated cost of the Stage I preparatory works mentioned in paragraph 16(a) above is in the order of \$450 million in money-of-the-day prices. Subject to agreement of Members, we plan to invite tenders for consultancy services for the Stage I preparatory works in March 2012. Tender

will only be awarded after we have sought the funding approval from the Finance Committee (FC) in June 2012. Subject to FC's funding approval, we plan to commence the Stage I works in 2012 and aim to proceed to the Stage II main works in 2014 for completion in 2021.

Public Consultation

18. HA consulted the Kwun Tong District Council (KTDC) and Sai Kung District Council (SKDC) on 2 February 2012 and 7 February 2012 respectively. Members of the KTDC and the SKDC supported the proposed project.

Advice Sought

19. Members are invited to comment on the proposed project as outlined in this paper.

Food and Health Bureau
Hospital Authority
March 2012

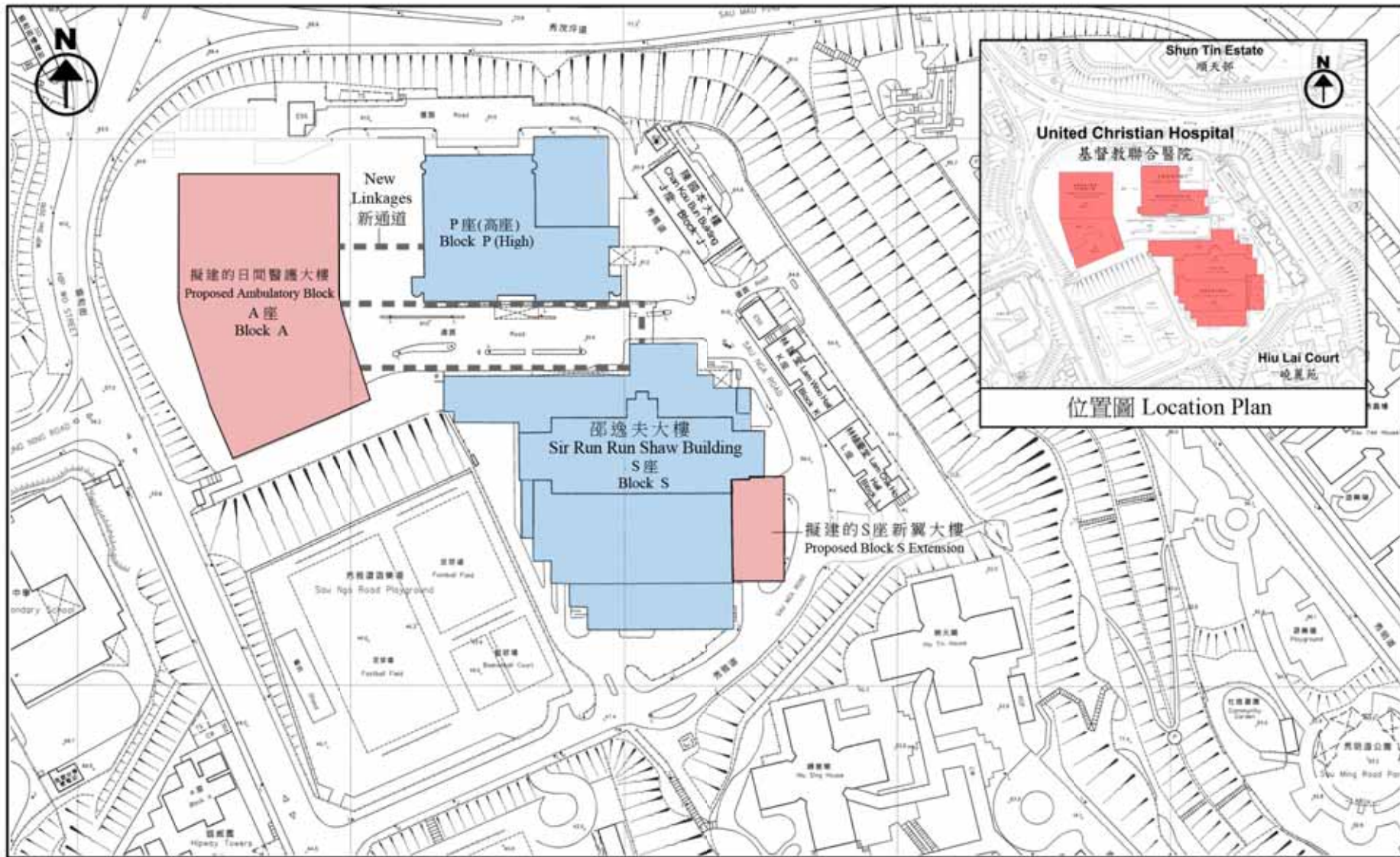


Expansion of United Christian Hospital

基督教聯合醫院擴建計劃

Site Plan of Existing United Christian Hospital (N.T.S.) 基督教聯合醫院現時平面圖 (不按比例)

- Buildings to be demolished 將予拆卸的樓宇
- Buildings to be refurbished 將翻新的樓宇



Expansion of United Christian Hospital

基督教聯合醫院擴建計劃

Site Plan of United Christian Hospital after Expansion (N.T.S.) 基督教聯合醫院擴建後平面圖 (不按比例)

- New Buildings 新的大樓
- Buildings refurbished 經翻新的大樓

— — — New Linkages 新通道