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中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衞生局

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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9 October 2012

Ms Elyssa WONG Clerk to Panel Panel on Health Services Legislative Council Complex 1, Legislative Council Road Central (Fax: 2185 7845)

Dear Ms WONG,

Panel on Health Services

Supplementary Information on the "Approved Person" system adopted by the Hospital Authority for the dispensaries of its General Outpatient Clinics

At the meeting of the Panel on Health Services held on 10 July 2012, the Hospital Authority (HA) undertook to provide the "Approved Persons" (AP) with the relevant information on their scope of responsibilities. Also, the Administration and HA were requested to explain clearly to the dispenser grade staff the direction of manpower planning and deployment for GOPC pharmacies. The consolidated response of the Administration and HA is as follows.

In June 2012, HA has already issued a letter to all concerned Senior Dispensers (SDs) to notify them of the Director of Health (DoH)'s approval for extending their AP status until 30 June 2013. After the Panel meeting on 10 July 2012, HA issued a further letter to the SDs in August 2012, enclosing DoH's approval letter and relevant extracts of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap. 134) and the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulations (Cap. 138A) pertaining to matters in respect of AP to equip them with information on the roles and responsibilities of an AP.

HA has been maintaining dialogues with the dispenser grade staff through various human resources management strategies, including the regular staff union meetings. HA will keep the dispenser grade staff informed of the direction of manpower planning and deployment for GOPC pharmacies in its next staff union meeting to be held in the fourth quarter of 2012. HA will endeavour to provide relevant information in response to any further enquiries as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Angora NGAI)

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for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Hospital Authority (Attn.: Dr W L CHEUNG, Ms Anna LEE)