

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services**

**Supplementary Information  
on the Accident and Emergency Services of Public Hospitals  
Requested in the Meeting on 18 March 2013**

This note provides supplementary information on the accident and emergency (A&E) services of public hospitals requested in the meeting of the Panel on Health Services on 18 March 2013.

*(a) a breakdown of the number of healthcare personnel by the Accident and Emergency Departments (AED) of public hospitals in the past five years*

2. Tables 1 and 2 below set out the number of doctors and nurses respectively in the A&E specialty by hospitals in the past five years. The manpower figures are calculated on full-time equivalent basis including permanent, contract and temporary staff in the Hospital Authority (HA).

**Table 1: Number of doctors in the A&E specialty by hospitals in the past five years**

A&E Specialty		Number of doctors				
Cluster	Hospital	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Hong Kong East	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	32	31	32	31	33
	Ruttonjee Hospital	17	17	14	13	17
	St John Hospital	4	4	3	4	4
Hong Kong West	Queen Mary Hospital	25	30	28	30	30
Kowloon Central	Queen Elizabeth Hospital	38	39	35	38	39
Kowloon East	Tseung Kwan O Hospital	18	15	17	18	20
	United Christian Hospital	51	51	37 <sup>1</sup>	36	35

<sup>1</sup> 10 A&E Doctors were transferred to Hong Kong Poison Information Centre of United Christian Hospital in 2010-11.

A&E Specialty		Number of doctors				
Cluster	Hospital	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Kowloon West	Caritas Medical Centre	25	26	27	23	26
	Kwong Wah Hospital	26	26	25	24	28
	Princess Margaret Hospital	30	30	30	29	28
	Yan Chai Hospital	28	30	28	30	26
New Territories East	Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital	21	21	22	23	22
	North District Hospital	21	20	17	18	19
	Prince of Wales Hospital	30	30	31	27	24
New Territories West	Pok Oi Hospital	21	21	19	21	23
	Tuen Mun Hospital	44	46	43	39	36

Table 2: Number of nurses in the A&E specialty by hospitals in the past five years

A&E Specialty		Number of nurses				
Cluster	Hospital	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Hong Kong East	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	45	46	47	47	47
	Ruttonjee Hospital	31	31	32	33	32
Hong Kong West	Queen Mary Hospital	42	49	50	50	53
Kowloon Central	Queen Elizabeth Hospital	64	62	62	66	71
Kowloon East	Tseung Kwan O Hospital	41	40	39	47	46
	United Christian Hospital	61	66	67	64	78
Kowloon West	Caritas Medical Centre	41	41	39	52	58
	Kwong Wah Hospital	47	46	46	41	36
	Princess Margaret Hospital	47	45	43	57	51

A&E Specialty		Number of nurses				
Cluster	Hospital	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
	<b>Yan Chai Hospital</b>	25	18	16	49	52
<b>New Territories East</b>	<b>Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital</b>	46	46	47	50	53
	<b>North District Hospital</b>	44	43	46	51	54
	<b>Prince of Wales Hospital</b>	59	60	67	79	81
<b>New Territories West</b>	<b>Pok Oi Hospital</b>	54	58	55	49	57
	<b>Tuen Mun Hospital</b>	71	75	74	82	85

*(b) breakdown of the average weekly work hours of the healthcare personnel by the 16 AED of public hospitals in the past five years*

3. Doctors in the A&E specialty are rostered to work on shift with an average weekly working hours of 44 hours. **Table 3** below sets out the average weekly working hours of doctors in the A&E specialty by hospitals in 2009-10 and 2011-12<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 3: Average weekly working hours of doctors in the A&E specialty by hospitals in 2009-10 and 2011-12**

A&E Specialty		Average Weekly Working Hours <sup>3</sup>	
Cluster	Hospital	2009-10	2011-12
<b>Hong Kong East</b>	<b>Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital</b>	42.2	42.3
	<b>Ruttonjee Hospital</b>	42.3	42.3
	<b>St John Hospital</b>	44.7	47.3

<sup>2</sup> The average weekly working hour of doctors were collected when conducting the relevant survey in 2011-12. Only those specialties with doctors reported to have worked more than 65 hours per week in 2009-10 are required to report the working hours of doctors on a yearly basis from 2010-11 onwards. On the other hand, full-scale monitoring for all specialties is conducted every alternate year. Hence, over the past five years, information on the average weekly working hours of doctors in the A&E specialty is only available in 2009-10 and 2011-12 (but not in 2008-09, 2010-11 and 2012-13).

<sup>3</sup> The average weekly working hours are calculated on actual calendar day basis based on rostered hours and self-reported hours of duties when the doctors are on off-site calls.

A&E Specialty		Average Weekly Working Hours <sup>3</sup>	
Cluster	Hospital	2009-10	2011-12
Hong Kong West	Queen Mary Hospital	44.0	44.0
Kowloon Central	Queen Elizabeth Hospital	42.0	42.8
Kowloon East	Tseung Kwan O Hospital	44.1	41.9
	United Christian Hospital	42.0	44.0
Kowloon West	Caritas Medical Centre	44.0	44.0
	Kwong Wah Hospital	44.0	44.0
	Princess Margaret Hospital	44.0	45.0
	Yan Chai Hospital	46.0	46.0
New Territories East	Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital	44.0	45.0
	North District Hospital	44.6	44.0
	Prince of Wales Hospital	44.0	43.6
New Territories West <sup>4</sup>	Pok Oi Hospital	45.1	42.1
	Tuen Mun Hospital		

4. The average weekly working hours for nurses are 44 hours per week in all AEDs.

(c) *a breakdown of the establishment and the number of vacancies of the healthcare personnel by the 16 AED of public hospitals in the past five years*

5. HA delivers healthcare services by an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach in order to allow flexible deployment of staff to cope with service and training needs as well as operational requirements. As at 31 March 2013, there were 410 doctors and 853 nurses providing A&E services at 16 public hospitals.

<sup>4</sup> Some doctors of the A&E Departments of Pok Oi Hospital and Tuen Mun Hospital work at both hospitals on operational needs. Breakdowns of the working hours of the relevant doctors are not available.

6. In assessing its manpower requirements, HA takes into account the service needs, models of care and availability of healthcare professionals, including the number of anticipated graduates from the tertiary institutions in Hong Kong. HA will continue to monitor the manpower situation and make appropriate arrangements in manpower planning and deployment to meet service needs.

7. The annual recruitment exercise for Resident Trainees is completed in June 2013 and 291 Resident Trainees were recruited in 2013-14. The manpower shortfall of doctors in 2013-14 is around 310, including 38 doctors in A&E<sup>5</sup>. The manpower shortfall of nurses in 2012-13 is around 850. HA will deploy about 50 nurses to A&E departments in 2013-14 to address shortfall arising from staff wastage.

*(d) whether consideration could be given to providing 24-hour acute stroke thrombolytic services in all hospital clusters*

8. Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) and Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) have started providing 24-hour intravenous thrombolytic service as pilot in 2009 and 2012 respectively. With this experience, QEH, PWH and Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (PYNEH) will be funded to formally provide a 24-hour intravenous thrombolytic service in 2013-14. Subject to the funding and manpower availability, HA plans to develop 24-hour intravenous thrombolytic service by phases with the ultimate goal of a networked 24-hour service in all hospital clusters to serve the entire territory in Hong Kong.

*(e) whether consideration could be given to providing public accident and emergency services in all districts*

9. At present, HA provides A&E services in 16 public hospitals covering all its seven clusters to serve the general public. Being geographically small and densely populated, Hong Kong enjoys relatively short transport time to A&E services when compared to other cities. We attach great importance to a good catchment design and an effective ambulance service so as to ensure that patients in need of A&E services are attended to timely. While the public's need for A&E services has been met in general, HA will continue to keep in view the service demand and consider ways for further improvement as appropriate.

**Food and Health Bureau  
July 2013**

---

<sup>5</sup> Breakdown of shortfall by hospitals is not available as healthcare personnel will be deployed to different hospitals according to operational needs.