

**For discussion  
on 20 May 2013**

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services**

**Commissioning of the North Lantau Hospital**

**Purpose**

This paper updates Members on the commissioning of the North Lantau Hospital (NLTH).

**Background**

2. To cope with the development and population growth of North Lantau, we obtained the approval of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in 2010 to construct Phase 1 of the NLTH.

3. Phase 1 of the NLTH is a 180-bed hospital providing a wide range of healthcare services, covering accident and emergency, primary and specialist outpatient, day centres, community, acute and extended in-patient care services. The full scope of services for NLTH is set out at **Annex**. The construction project was completed in December 2012 and the Hospital Authority (HA) has been actively working on the commissioning arrangement.

**Manpower considerations in medical service commissioning**

4. It is expected that, upon the full operation of NLTH, a total of 650 staff, including over 60 doctors and 170 nurses, will be required. In anticipation of such a manpower requirement, HA has, since 2011-12, been proactively recruiting staff, particularly doctors, to plan for the commissioning of hospital services. However, HA has been experiencing serious shortage of medical manpower due to high turnover rate and reduction in medical graduates from local universities in the past few years. Some service areas, such as Accident and Emergency (A&E), Paediatrics and Intensive Care, are critically short of medical staff and the situation is likely to continue for a couple of years.

## **Highlight of Medical Services to be provided in 2013-14**

5. In spite of the current medical manpower shortage, we recognise the demand for medical services in North Lantau and will commence provision of services in NLTH in phases starting from September 2013.

6. Opening a new hospital for public use is a complicated exercise requiring assembling a large number of professionals with different background to work together in a new environment. While before the formal commissioning of a hospital, the operation of various systems thereof will have been fully tested and the coordination of various groups of healthcare personnel working there fully tried, it would still be prudent to adopt a phased approach in commissioning the new hospital. This would facilitate healthcare personnel to accumulate experience in the actual environment in order to deliver quality services for the public.

### Accident & Emergency service

7. Given that A&E service is of priority concern for the local community, A&E service will be among the first type of services to be available immediately upon the operation of NLTH in September 2013. The duration of service hour of A&E will initially be eight hours a day, to be extended to 16 hours a day by January 2014.

### Primary care and specialist outpatient services

8. Upon the commissioning of NLTH, the General Outpatient Clinic provided by HA in the Tung Chung Health Centre will be relocated to the new hospital in September 2013. The existing service level of the clinic will be maintained.

9. Medicine and Psychiatry Specialist Outpatient Clinics will be available upon commencement of A&E services to take on referrals. Physiotherapy and occupational therapy services will also commence at the same time to take up referrals from A&E department and GOPC.

### Community care and other supporting services

10. Community nursing service, community geriatric outreach and community psychiatric outreach services will be in place starting from September 2013. Other diagnostic and treatment facilities, such as emergency laboratory, A&E radiology suite and computed tomography (CT) scanner will also be in place to support the clinical services.

### **Medical services to be provided in 2014-15 onwards**

11. It is planned that, subject to the availability of manpower, 24-hours A&E services and an Emergency Medicine Ward will be provided in NLTH in the third quarter of 2014.

12. HA will continue to strive to commission the remaining services early, including the phased opening of the remaining inpatient beds and other specialist outpatient clinics such as surgery, orthopaedics, gynaecology and paediatrics, having regard to the growth in service demand and the manpower availability. Before the full operation of NLTH, other specialist services will continue to be provided by other hospitals in the Kowloon West Cluster, in particular the Princess Margaret Hospital which is the tertiary referral centre within the cluster.

### **Way forward**

13. HA has been maintaining close liaison with major stakeholders, community leaders and the Island District Council (IDC) on the latest progress of the commissioning plan of NLTH through, for example, a site visit for IDC Members to NLTH on 8 April 2013, and a briefing for IDC at its meeting on 22 April 2013. We will continue to liaise with local community closely on the commissioning arrangement and services provision in NLTH.

14. The current NLTH project is phase 1 of the development. To meet the long-term demand for hospital services on Lantau, the Government has reserved an adjacent site for future provision of an additional 170-bed of hospital facility under phase 2 development. We will monitor the service demand closely and start the planning work when necessary.

## **Advice Sought**

15. Members are invited to note the commissioning of NLTH hospital services.

**Food and Health Bureau  
Hospital Authority  
May 2013**

**Scope of Services of North Lantau Hospital upon full operation**

The North Lantau Hospital includes the following facilities and services:-

- (a) in-patient care services with 160 in-patient beds, including –
  - (i) 80 beds for acute care with specialties of emergency and general medicine, surgery, orthopaedics and traumatology; and
  - (ii) 80 beds for extended care providing convalescent and rehabilitation services;
  
- (b) ambulatory care services, including –
  - (i) an accident and emergency (A&E) department ;
  - (ii) specialist out-patient clinics;
  - (iii) primary care clinics;
  - (iv) a day rehabilitation centre; and
  - (v) an ambulatory surgery/day procedure centre with 20 day beds;
  
- (c) community care services, including –
  - (i) community geriatric assessment service;
  - (ii) a psychiatric outreaching team;
  - (iii) community nursing service;
  - (iv) a patient resources centre;
  - (v) community health education; and
  - (vi) medical social service;
  
- (d) diagnostic and treatment facilities to support in-patient and out-patient services, including emergency laboratory; blood bank; A&E radiology suite; computed tomography scanner; and ultrasound scanner;
  
- (e) support services including food services, pharmacy, mortuary, linen, procurement and supplies, transportation and portering, and engineering plants; and
  
- (f) administrative services including hospital administration, admissions, staff accommodation and medical records, etc.