



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

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Ms Elyssa Wong
Clerk to Panel
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
(Fax: 2509 0775)

Dear Ms Wong,

Construction of Tin Shui Wai Hospital

I refer to item 8 of LC Paper No. CB(2)331/12-13(02). At the Panel meeting held on 19 November 2012, the Administration was requested to provide the following information in relation to the construction of Tin Shui Wai Hospital ("the TSW Hospital")—

- (a) the provision of additional outpatient clinic places to meet the demand for primary care services in Tin Shui Wai before the commissioning of the TSW Hospital;
- (b) the existing overall doctor to population ratio of all hospital clusters, and the doctor to population ratio of the New Territories West cluster ("NTW Cluster") after the commissioning of the TSW Hospital; and
- (c) whether the standard of providing 5.5 beds per 1 000 population as set out in the 2011 edition of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines could be achieved in NTW Cluster after the commissioning of the TSW Hospital.

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Response to item (a)

General out-patient services provided by the Hospital Authority ("HA") are primarily targeted at the elderly, the low-income group and the chronically ill. Patients under the care of general out-patient clinics ("GOPCs") comprise two major categories: chronic disease patients with stable medical conditions, such as patients with diabetes mellitus or hypertension; and episodic disease patients with relatively mild symptoms, such as those suffering from influenza, cold, gastroenteritis, etc. As at December 2012, there are two GOPCs in Tin Shui Wai providing services to residents of the area. The Tin Shui Wai Health Centre now handles around 160,000 attendances per year. With the service commencement of the Tin Shui Wai (Tin Yip Road) Community Health Centre in February 2012, the two clinics will be able to handle a total of around 200,000 general outpatient attendances every year. HA will continue to closely monitor the position in order to ensure that appropriate services are provided to target patients.

Response to item (b)

The table below presents the existing number and ratio of HA doctors per 1 000 population by clusters.

Clusters	No. of doctors and ratio per 1 000 population (as at 31 October 2012)	
	Doctors ^(Note 1)	Ratio per 1 000 population
Hong Kong East	575	0.70
Hong Kong West *	601	1.11
Kowloon Central *	678	1.35
Kowloon East	621	0.61
Kowloon West	1 249	0.66
New Territories East	885	0.67
New Territories West	686	0.63
Overall	5 295	0.74

Note 1 Manpower on full-time equivalent (FTE) basis, including all staff in HA's workforce on permanent, contract and temporary terms but excluding interns and dentists.

* These two Clusters have the largest proportion of cross-cluster flow of patients receiving general in-patient and out-patient services. Approximately 40% and 70% of the services in Hong Kong West Cluster and Kowloon Central Cluster respectively are provided to residents outside their cluster boundary.

The ratio of doctor per 1 000 population varies among the clusters. It should be noted that the variances do not necessarily correspond to the difference in the population among the clusters due to the following reasons :

- ◇ patients can receive care in hospitals other than those in their own residential districts and cross-cluster utilization of services is rather common;
- ◇ some specialized services are available only in a number of hospitals and the doctors, nurses and allied health staff in these hospitals are also providing services for patients from other clusters; and
- ◇ the demographic profiles of local population and thus their medical needs vary among the clusters.

HA will regularly monitor the utilization rate and trend of demand for various healthcare services and will ensure that the services can meet public demand through continued restructuring of service delivery model of hospitals, hospital development projects and implementation of other suitable measures. We expect the doctor to population ratio of NTW Cluster will increase after the commissioning of the TSW Hospital.

Response to item (c)

The standard of providing 5.5 beds per 1 000 population as set out in the 2011 edition of the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines was formulated by the Government for long-term planning purpose. This planning ratio includes all types of hospital beds both in public and private sectors as well as hospital beds in nursing homes and correctional institutions as defined under the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance (Cap. 165) of Hong Kong. The planning and development of hospitals is usually determined within a regional context, taking into consideration the likely future concentrations of population and the need for different types of hospital beds (i.e. general, infirmary, mentally ill and handicapped beds).

As at 31 December 2011, there were overall 5.1 hospital beds per 1 000 population in Hong Kong across different sectors, comprising (i) 3.8 hospital beds managed by HA (including 2.9 general beds and 0.9 infirmary, mentally ill and handicapped beds), (ii) 0.6 hospital bed in

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private sector, (iii) 0.6 bed in nursing homes and (iv) 0.1 bed in correctional institutions.

For NTW Cluster of HA, the corresponding ratio will be around 4.1 hospital beds per 1 000 population (comprising 2.5 general beds and 1.6 infirmary, mentally ill and handicapped beds) upon commissioning of the TSW Hospital in 2016, taking into account the existing bed complement and the total planned additional bed capacity in the Cluster.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Angela Lee)
for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Hospital Authority

(Attn.: Dr W L CHEUNG, Director (Cluster Services)
Dr S V Lo, Director (Strategy & Planning))