

**For information  
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**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**PANEL ON WELFARE SERVICES  
PANEL ON HEALTH SERVICES**

**JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG-TERM CARE POLICY**

**Integrated Home Care Services for the Elderly**

**Purpose**

The Administration provides a range of subsidised community care services (CCS), including home-based services and centre-based services, to assist our elderly people to age in place. This paper sets out the various types of subsidised home-based services available for the elderly.

**An Overview**

2. As of 30 September 2013, there were about 23 500 elderly persons receiving subsidised home-based services, including the Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) (Ordinary Cases), IHCS (Frail Cases) and Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS). These services are being provided by 60 IHCS Teams and 24 EHCCS Teams all over Hong Kong. The existing fee schedule is provided at the Annex.

3. With effect from 1 April 2003, the Administration has re-engineered and enhanced home and community based services for elderly persons and their families by upgrading the 138 subvented Home Help Teams to 60 agency and district-based IHCS Teams to provide a continuum of care and support services to frail and non-frail elderly persons living at home.

## **The Home-based Services**

### ***IHCS (Ordinary Cases)***

4. IHCS (Ordinary Cases) include a range of community support services for the elderly, people with disabilities and needy families living in the community. Elderly persons who use IHCS (Ordinary Cases) are not required to go through the Standardised Care Need Assessment Mechanism for Elderly Services (SCNAMES) under the Social Welfare Department (SWD). IHCS (Ordinary Cases) cover meal delivery services, escort services, personal services, simple nursing care and household cleaning.

5. There are 24 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating such services. These service operators keep and manage their own waiting lists. Generally speaking, they will assess the social and health conditions of the service users at intake level and accord priority to those with urgent needs, e.g. elderly persons with no or poor support network. According to the statistics provided by NGOs concerned, as of 30 September 2013, around 5 100 cases<sup>1</sup> were reported to be on the waiting list, while there were about 17 300 elderly persons receiving services.

### ***IHCS (Frail Cases) and EHCCS***

6. Both IHCS (Frail Cases) and EHCCS include a comprehensive package of services, including care management, basic and special nursing care, personal care, rehabilitation exercise, counselling services, 24-hour emergency services, environmental risk assessment and home modifications, home-making and meals delivery services, as well as escort services. They also provide carer support services.

7. Only those elderly persons who have been assessed under SCNAMES as having moderate or severe level of impairment are eligible for IHCS (Frail Cases) or EHCCS. The scope and frequency of services for individual users are designed by IHCS Teams or EHCCS Teams according to the needs of the elderly persons concerned. Unlike IHCS

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<sup>1</sup> Figures include elderly persons, people with disabilities and needy families.

(Ordinary Cases), EHCCS and IHCS (Frail Cases) shall provide the service users, in respect of their level of frailty and disability, with a minimum number of hours on direct care services including basic and special nursing care, personal care and restorative and maintenance rehabilitation exercises. The total number of home-based CCS places for frail elderly now stands at 6 699 (i.e. 5 579 places for EHCCS and 1 120 for IHCS (Frail Cases)). As of November 2013, the average waiting time was about five months.

### **Other Home Care Services / Support**

8. In March 2011, SWD implemented the Pilot Scheme on Home Care Services for Frail Elders. This Pilot Scheme, run in eight districts<sup>2</sup>, aims to provide enhanced home-based nursing care and support services targeted at elderly persons who have been assessed by SCNAMES as severely impaired and are waiting for subsidised nursing home places. The scope of services includes management of clinical issues, medical, nursing and rehabilitation services, personal care and support services as well as environmental and psychosocial support services. On-site carer training is also provided to enhance the care skills and knowledge of the carers concerned. As of 30 September 2013, about 660 cases had been served.

### **Advice Sought**

9. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

**Labour and Welfare Bureau**  
**Social Welfare Department**  
**January 2014**

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<sup>2</sup> This Pilot Scheme is run in eight districts, namely Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Sai Kung, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po, Eastern and Kwai Tsing.

<b>Fee schedule of Integrated Home Care Services (IHCS) (Ordinary Cases), IHCS (Frail Cases), Enhanced Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS)</b>			
<b>Income level</b>	<b>Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) level or below</b>	<b>Between CSSA to 1.5 CSSA level</b>	<b>Above 1.5 CSSA level</b>
Meal delivery	\$12.6	\$15.4	\$18.6
Laundry	Light	\$0.7	
	Medium	\$0.9	
	Heavy	\$1.8	
Direct service, home making and escort services per hour	\$5.4	\$11.7	\$19.0

<b>Fee schedule of Pilot Scheme on Home Care Services for Frail Elders</b>							
<b>Income level</b>	<b>CSSA level or below</b>	<b>Between 1 - 1.5 CSSA level</b>	<b>Above 1.5 - 3 CSSA level</b>	<b>Above 3 - 4 CSSA level</b>	<b>Above 4 - 5 CSSA level</b>	<b>Above 5 - 6 CSSA level</b>	<b>Above 6 CSSA level</b>
Meal delivery	\$12.6	\$15.4	\$18.6	\$25.0	\$30.0	\$30.0	\$30.0
Laundry	Light	\$0.7		\$5.5 (per lb)	\$11.0 (per lb)	\$14.0 (per lb)	\$14.0 (per lb)
	Medium	\$0.9					
	Heavy	\$1.8					
Direct service provided by care workers (per hour)	\$5.4	\$11.7	\$19.0	\$25.0	\$30.0	\$40.0	\$60.0
Direct service provided by professional staff (per hour)	\$5.4	\$11.7	\$19.0	\$30.0	\$85.0	\$120.0	\$150.0