



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

Our Ref. : FHB/H/1/5/4/2 Pt. 13
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18 February 2015

Ms Maisie LAM
Clerk to Panel
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1, Legislative Council Road
Central

Dear Ms LAM,

Follow-up to the special meeting on 13 January 2015

I refer to item 7 “Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme” of the LC Paper No. CB(2)818/14-15(02). At the captioned meeting, the Administration was requested to provide information on “a comparison between the average cost of Hospital Authority (HA) and the median cost of the private healthcare sector for conducting common operations or procedures, such as appendicectomy, laparoscopic cholecystectomy, endoscopy and colonoscopy procedures”. Our response is set out in ensuing paragraphs.

2. **Table 1** below sets out the range of reference costs of HA for conducting the named procedures. The reference cost information is compiled from the current HA fees and charges for private patients (set on the higher of cost or market price) which were effective since 1 April 2013. Reference cost covers surgeon fee, administration of anaesthetics, medicines used in operation, and operating theatre expenses. Room charge, doctor consultation, medication, investigation and examination, as well as special consumables such as implants, prostheses and devices used

by the individual patient, and disposable laparoscopic instruments used in the operation are charged separately. Variations within the respective range of reference cost would be subject to complexity of disease treated and scope of examinations taken.

Table 1

Procedure/investigation	Range of reference cost
Oesophago-gastro-duodenoscopy (OGD)	\$10,350 - \$23,700
Colonoscopy/sigmoidoscopy	\$11,800 - \$20,650

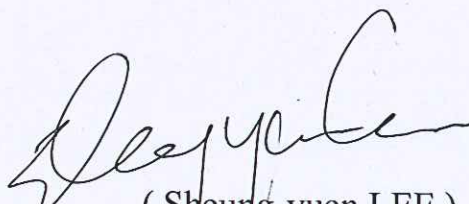
3. Given the different cost structure between public and private hospitals (e.g. the infrastructure arrangements (such as land costs), medical professionals' remuneration (salaried doctors versus visiting doctors), larger size of the HA's operations and its economies of scale, etc.), and variation in facilities and services, HA service costs cannot be directly compared with the costs of private hospitals.

4. For reference purpose, **Table 2** provides a range of average charges of private hospitals in Hong Kong for performing the named procedures. The information is extracted from publicly available information from two private hospitals in Hong Kong.

Table 2

Procedure/investigation	Range of average charge
Gastroscopy	\$18,438 - \$22,690
Colonoscopy	\$18,430 - \$21,140

Yours sincerely,



(Sheung-yuen LEE)
for Secretary for Food and Health