



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部衛生福利及食物局
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
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Ms Mary So
Clerk to Panel
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Central

Dear Ms So,

Grant for the Samaritan Fund

Item 11 of the list of follow-up actions in LC Paper No. CB(2) 761/06-07(02) refers. At the Panel meeting on 11 December 2006 to discuss the captioned subject, the Administration was requested to provide information on X knife and gamma knife surgeries in 2005-2006.

X knife (XK) surgery and gamma knife (GK) surgery are two different kinds of radiotherapy to treat accurately defined targets, for example, a brain tumour. Whether XK or GK surgery is used for treatment depends on patients' clinical indications, the size and shape of the targets, and the proximity to dose-limiting structures such as optic nerves.

XK surgery or its equivalents is currently available in most public hospitals under the Hospital Authority (HA) equipped with standard radiotherapy facilities, such as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The number of patients undergone XK surgery in HA hospitals was 156 in 2005 and 68 in the first half of 2006 respectively. The relevant figure for the second half of 2006 is not yet available.

On the other hand, GK surgery is only available in one private hospital in Hong Kong. Based on the assessment of HA's neurosurgeons and

- 2 -

clinical oncologists, public patients may be referred to the private hospital to receive GK surgery at their own cost. For patients in need, they can apply for financial assistance from the Samaritan fund to meet the expenses of the GK surgery. In 2005/06, 35 public patients received GK surgery at the private hospital with the assistance provided by the Samaritan Fund.

Yours sincerely,



(Kirk YIP)

for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

cc Dr Beatrice CHENG, Hospital Authority