

## The Oral Chemotherapy Advocacy Group

The Oral Chemotherapy Advocacy Group is a multidisciplinary group of stakeholders with an interest in improving the rational use of medicines for cancer patients.

The group advocates the re-allocation of funds for oral chemotherapy medications based on efficacy and pharmacoeconomic data.

### CHAIRPERSON

**Dr Daniel CHUA**  
Clinical Oncologist

### MEMBERS

**Dr Simon LEUNG\***  
Urologist

**Prof Sarah McGHEE**  
Pharmacoeconomist

**Ms Jacqueline YUEN**  
Oncology Nurse Specialist

**Dr Keary ZHOU**  
Pharmacist

\* Dr Leung joins this advocacy group as a representative of the Taishan Charitable Association, a patient group established in 1991 that aims to help cancer patients and promote cancer prevention in the community.

Dr. Hon Leung Ka Lau  
Chairman  
Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council

8 Jun 2011

Dear Dr. Leung,

### Inclusion of Oral Chemotherapy Drug into HA Drug Formulary

The Oral Chemotherapy Advocacy Group welcomes the Government's recent decision to include oral chemotherapy drug capecitabine in the Drug Formulary for colorectal cancer (CRC) patients.

As a caring government with commitment, we believe the decision was made to achieve effective use of limited public resources to benefit our community. We are also glad that HA takes pharmaco-economic study result as one of the key considerations when making the decision.

With this support, CRC patients can be offered oral chemotherapy drug capecitabine and thus, improve quality of life by reducing the number of hospital visits. Furthermore, this can better utilize the time of pharmacists and nurses. Healthcare professionals will be able to focus on their clinical and educational roles which would benefit our community.

Further to CRC, oral chemotherapy drug also demonstrates equivalent clinical efficacy and safety profile, improved patient compliance with significant cost saving benefit in various kinds of cancer such as gastric cancer, when compares to its IV counterparts. We look forward to seeing continuous review on enlisting oral chemotherapy drugs to benefit more cancer patients.

We would like to convey our appreciation for all the efforts made to make this possible. Thank you for your kind attention and we wish you every success in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Daniel Chua  
Clinical Oncologist  
Chairperson  
Oral Chemotherapy Advocacy Group