



LC Paper No. CB(2)1733/11-12(04)

香港藥學會

The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong  
Kowloon G.P.O. Box 73552, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon,  
Hong Kong.

Society's Fax: (852) 2376-3091

E-mail: [pharmacist@pshk.hk](mailto:pharmacist@pshk.hk)Websites: <http://pshk.hk>13<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Dr. Leung Ka-lau  
Chairman,  
Panel on Health Services

Dear Dr. Leung,

### Relaxation of the Assessment Criteria for Samaritan Fund

The Samaritan Fund has provided assistance to many needy patients and the Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong welcomes the increase in funding from the government as it would bring more benefits to more patients.

The evaluation criteria adopted currently only helps the low income family and patients on Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) but not the middle class family. As illustrated in Appendix E of the legislative paper CB(2)1640/11-12(03), a patient (plus family) with annual disposable income over HK\$260,001 has to contribute up to 30% of the disposable income. Take for example if a patient has annual disposable income of HK\$980,000, he has to contribute HK\$294,000 and if the annual drug cost is HK\$270,000, he would not be eligible for any financial assistance at all. With the annual recurrent drug cost, the patient's savings will be diminished in a few years time. This is a hard blow for patients who are already facing the difficulties in coping with the catastrophic diseases.

The application and financial assessment process by the Medical Social Services Department is complicated with high administrative cost.

In many overseas countries such as UK, Canada and Australia, patients diagnosed with Cancer will be provided the Cancer drugs without having to undergo the income scrutiny. We propose that the supply of the 17 drugs to patients be based on clinical indication only and the patients must make a co-payment of 10 to 20% for the drug treatment. This should shorten the delay of providing drugs to the patients in need and reduce the high administration cost. For those patients who cannot afford the co-payment, they would have to go through the financial assessment by the Medical Social Workers.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Catherine Cheng  
President

The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong