



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

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

Dear Ms Lam

**Supplementary Information following
the Meeting on 17 November 2014**

At the meeting of the Panel on Health Services on 17.11.2014 on the Quality Management of Pathology Reports of the Hospital Authority, Members requested that a set of supplementary information be provided. I attach a bilingual note in response to the request for your perusal please.

Yours sincerely

(Patrick Lee)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Chief Executive, Hospital Authority
(Attn: Ms Emily Chan, Fax: 2895 0937)

Legislative Council Panel on Health Services

Supplementary Information following the Meeting on 17 November 2014

This note provides supplementary information following the meeting of the Panel on 17 November 2014 on Quality Management of Pathology Reports in the Hospital Authority (HA).

(a) The number of disciplinary actions taken by HA

2. HA has put in place an established mechanism to handle disciplinary matters of its staff, including those arising from medical incidents. HA will consider appropriate disciplinary actions having regard to the circumstances of individual cases. Types of disciplinary actions include verbal warning, written warning, stoppage of increment, deferment of increment and dismissal, etc. The number of disciplinary actions taken by HA in the past five years are as follows –

Year	Number of disciplinary actions
2009-10	296
2010-11	267
2011-12	324
2012-13	302
2013-14	363

3. HA will review and consider the appropriate follow-up action having regard to the circumstances of individual cases, including referring to the Medical Council of Hong Kong (MCHK) for follow up if considered appropriate.

4. Upon receiving information or complaints about the professional conduct of registered medical practitioners, MCHK will handle the case according to the Medical Registration Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation, i.e. Medical Practitioners (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation (Cap.161 E). When MCHK investigates into medical incidents that occurred in public hospital, HA will provide assistance to facilitate the investigation as far as possible.

(b) The strength of pathologists in HA

5. The table below sets out the numbers of doctors in the Pathology specialty in HA as at 31 December 2014 –

Cluster	Hospital/ Institution	Total
Hong Kong East	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital	20
Hong Kong West	Queen Mary Hospital	25
Kowloon Central	Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service	4
	Queen Elizabeth Hospital	25
Kowloon East	Tseung Kwan O Hospital	8
	United Christian Hospital	14
Kowloon West	Caritas Medical Centre	5
	Kwong Wah Hospital	11
	Princess Margaret Hospital	27
	North Lantau Hospital	1
	Yan Chai Hospital	5
NT East	Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital	5
	North District Hospital	6
	Prince of Wales Hospital	22
NT West	Pok Oi Hospital	5
	Tuen Mun Hospital	18
Total		200

Note:

- (a) HA organises its services on a cluster basis. The manpower of HA are deployed and rotated flexibly amongst various hospitals within a cluster.
- (b) Manpower is on full-time equivalent basis and includes permanent, contract and temporary staff (but excludes Interns). Individual figures may not add up to the total due to rounding.

(c) Audit check on pathology reports issued under the forensic pathology service of the Department of Health

6. Quality assurance of autopsy reports issued by doctors working in the Forensic Pathology Service of the Department of Health is based on case reviews and peer discussions before the reports are issued instead of random audit check on issued autopsy reports. For autopsy cases handled by doctors who have not attained Specialist status (Specialist in Pathology /

Specialist in Forensic Pathology), the doctors are required to submit their autopsy reports to their respective supervisors with Specialist status for checking and endorsement before issuance. For autopsy cases handled by doctors who have attained Specialist status and hence are regarded as professionally independent, case reviews and peer discussions are conducted on a need basis, such as contentious or complicated cases, before the reports are issued. In 2014, about 50% of autopsy report have been vetted by supervisors or discussed in case reviews.

Food and Health Bureau
Hospital Authority
Department of Health
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