



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

本函檔號： L/M to FHB/H/1/19
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20 January 2017

Ms Maisie Lam
Clerk to Panel
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central

Dear Ms Lam,

**Panel on Health Services on 21 November 2016
Preparation by the Government to Tackle Influenza Winter Surge**

During the discussion on “Preparation by the Government to Tackle Influenza Winter Surge” at the Panel meeting on 21 November 2016, Members requested that supplementary information be provided. Having consulted the Hospital Authority (HA) and the Department of Health, the relevant information is set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

(a) *the financial implications of expanding the 2016-2017 free or subsidized seasonal vaccination schemes to cover all persons with chronic medical problems and all persons aged 50 or above as recommended by the Scientific Committee on Vaccine Preventable Diseases. Separate figures concerning extending the coverage to all persons aged 50 or above, 55 or above, and 60 or above should be provided*

2. Under the current Government Vaccination Programme (GVP) / Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS), persons with chronic medical problems who are children from 6 months to under 12 years old or elders aged 65 or above are already eligible for receiving free / subsidised seasonal influenza (SI) vaccinations.

3. In the GVP and VSS 2015-16, the uptake rate of SI vaccination among elders aged 65 or above was 40%. Assuming same uptake rates for people aged 50 to below 65 and persons with chronic medical problems aged 12 to below 65, the extra resources required by the Government for providing free / subsidized SI vaccinations to them are estimated as follows

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Target Group	Target Population	No. of Persons Receiving SI Vaccination (Assuming 40% coverage)	Estimated Total Cost
(i) 50 to 54 years old	650,000	260,000	\$40,000,000
(ii) 55 to 59 years old	630,000	250,000	\$39,000,000
(iii) 60 to under 65 years old	500,000	200,000	\$31,000,000
(A) 50 to under 65 years old (i.e. (i)+(ii)+(iii))	1,780,000	710,000	\$110,000,000
(B) 12 to under 65 years old (with chronic medical problems)	1,200,000	490,000	\$75,000,000

(b) *a breakdown of the number of influenza-associated admissions by age groups in the past five winter surge periods*

4. The table below sets out the number of inpatient admissions with principal diagnosis of influenza by age group in the past five winter surge periods.

Winter Surge Period	Number of inpatient admissions with principal diagnosis of influenza			
	Aged between 0 and 14	Aged between 15 and 64	Aged 65 or above	Total
13/01/2012 – 26/07/2012	1 894	896	2 823	5 613
18/01/2013 – 24/05/2013	491	368	227	1 086
03/01/2014 – 25/04/2014*	1 410	1 061	1 169	3 641
02/01/2015 –	1 037	1 081	4 247	6 365

Winter Surge Period	Number of inpatient admissions with principal diagnosis of influenza			
	Aged between 0 and 14	Aged between 15 and 64	Aged 65 or above	Total
23/04/2015				
29/01/2016 – 20/05/2016*	2 211	1 131	1 152	4 495

* one patient without admission age

(c) *a breakdown by hospital clusters of the 500-odd temporary beds to be opened in public hospitals in the 2016-2017 winter surge period*

5. The table below sets out the estimated number of temporary beds to be opened in HA by clusters in the 2016-2017 winter surge period.

Cluster	Estimated number of temporary beds to be opened during winter surge 2016-17
Hong Kong East Cluster	over 50
Hong Kong West Cluster	around 10
Kowloon Central Cluster	around 100
Kowloon East Cluster	around 50
Kowloon West Cluster	over 100
New Territories East Cluster	over 100
New Territories West Cluster	around 100

(d) *a breakdown of the existing number of hospital beds and healthcare personnel (i.e. doctors, nurses and allied health professionals) in HA and the increasing number of hospital beds and the above healthcare personnel in 2016-2017 by the departments of Accident & Emergency (A&E), Medicine, Paediatrics and Pathology*

6. Table 1 and Table 2 below set out the number of hospital beds and healthcare personnel respectively by specialities in HA as at 31 March 2016:

Table 1

	Number of hospital beds as at 31 March 2016
All specialties	27 895
Major specialties:	
Gynaecology	481
Medicine	9 016
Obstetrics	808
Orthopaedics & Traumatology	2 434
Paediatrics	1 088

	Number of hospital beds as at 31 March 2016
Psychiatry	3 607
Surgery	2 979

Table 2

	Number of healthcare personnel as at 31 March 2016		
	Doctors	Nurses	Allied Health Professionals
Total	5 664	24 587	7 268
Specialties:			
A&E	462	1 079	NA
Medicine	1 253	6 756	NA
Paediatrics	351	1 422	NA
Pathology	205	NA	NA

Note:

- (1) *The manpower figures are calculated on full-time equivalent basis including permanent, contract and temporary staff in HA.*
- (2) *The doctor manpower figures do not include intern and dental officers.*
- (3) *No classification of Pathology specialty for nursing manpower.*

7. According to the 2016-2017 Annual Plan of HA, 231 additional beds are being opened and more healthcare staff are being recruited. While the exact distribution of the additional beds by specialties is to be finalised, the additional beds are expected to be distributed among Medicine, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, Surgery and Mentally Handicapped, with more than half to be added to Medicine. The table below sets out the number of healthcare personnel in HA as at 31 October 2016.

	Number of healthcare personnel as at 31 October 2016		
	Doctors	Nurses	Allied Health Professionals
Total	5 859	24 799	7 534
Specialties:			
A&E	487	1 094	NA
Medicine	1 294	6 856	NA
Paediatrics	356	1 468	NA
Pathology	216	NA	NA

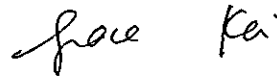
Note:

- (1) *The manpower figures are calculated on full-time equivalent basis including permanent, contract and temporary staff in HA.*
- (2) *The doctor manpower figures do not include intern and dental officers.*
- (3) *No classification of Pathology specialty for nursing manpower.*

(e) *the number of internal administrative meetings held at the HA Head Office and individual public hospitals during the last winter surge period from January to March 2016 and the total number of attendance of the healthcare personnel at these meetings*

8. During the period of January to March 2016, four internal meetings related to the specialties of Internal Medicine, Orthopaedics and Traumatology, and A&E have been held. On average, 24 healthcare personnel participated in each meeting.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Grace Kei)
for Secretary for Food and Health

cc: Chief Executive, Hospital Authority (Attn: Ms Dorothy Lam)