



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
來函檔號：

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6 April 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 16 January 2017
Review of the Fees and Charges for Public Hospital Services

During the discussion on the Review of the Fees and Charges for Public Hospital Services at the meeting of the Panel on 16 January 2017, the Panel requested that supplementary information be provided. Having consulted the Hospital Authority (HA), I provide the relevant information in the ensuing paragraphs.

- (a) The number of cases granted with medical fee waivers in the past three years, with a breakdown by whether or not the patients were recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) and the hospital services they received*

1 Apr 2013 – 31 Mar 2014	CSSA Recipients	Non-CSSA Recipients (Eligible persons ¹ only)	Non-CSSA Recipients (Non-eligible persons ² only)
No. of inpatient cases granted with medical fee waivers	285,917	30,683	1,317
No. of outpatient attendance granted with medical fee waivers	3,357,480	202,347	10,750

1 Apr 2014 – 31 Mar 2015	CSSA Recipients	Non-CSSA Recipients (Eligible persons only)	Non-CSSA Recipients (Non-eligible persons only)
No. of inpatient cases granted with medical fee waivers	291,828	32,317	1,979
No. of outpatient attendance granted with medical fee waivers	3,268,443	187,203	16,403

1 Apr 2015 – 31 Mar 2016	CSSA Recipients	Non-CSSA Recipients (Eligible persons only)	Non-CSSA Recipients (Non-eligible persons only)
No. of inpatient cases granted with medical fee waivers	291,488	30,675	2,577

¹ Persons meeting the following criteria are eligible for the rates of charges applicable to Eligible Persons as stipulated in the Gazette:

- (i) holders of Hong Kong Identity Card issued under the Registration of Persons Ordinance (Chapter 177), except those who obtained their Hong Kong Identity Card by virtue of a previous permission to land or remain in Hong Kong granted to them and such permission has expired or ceased to be valid;
- (ii) children who are Hong Kong residents and under 11 years of age; or
- (iii) other persons approved by the Chief Executive of the HA.

² Persons who are not Eligible Persons are classified as Non-eligible Persons.

1 Apr 2015 – 31 Mar 2016	CSSA Recipients	Non-CSSA Recipients (Eligible persons only)	Non-CSSA Recipients (Non-eligible persons only)
No. of outpatient attendance granted with medical fee waivers	3,181,731	182,140	20,853

(b) The timetable for the provision of public general outpatient services in the evening and/or during public holidays in each hospital cluster; and

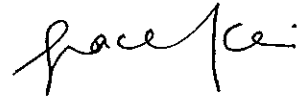
To cope with the immense service demand, the HA has endeavoured to enhance the general outpatient clinic (GOPC) services. With the implementation of various measures, there has been an increase of nearly 600,000 attendances from 2012/13 to 2015/16 for the GOPCs of HA. In 2016/17, there would be an increase of around 27,000 consultation quota in GOPCs including evening clinics and public holiday clinics. The number of clinics providing Sunday and public holiday services has also increased from 12 to 13. In 2017/18 and 2018/19, where resources are available, the HA would gradually attain an increase of over 44,000 consultation quota for GOPCs, including evening and/or public holiday clinic services. In the coming few years, if manpower and financial resources allow, the scale of GOPC quota increase could be enlarged to further enhance the service capacity. The HA would continue to closely monitor the service demand and utilisation and plan for appropriate increase in consultation quota so as to enhance the primary care services.

(c) the effectiveness of the introduction of the new charge for the Accident and Emergency (A&E) services of HA in 2002 in continuously reducing the number of attendances, in particular the number of semi-urgent and non-urgent cases.

The introduction of A&E charge in 2002 was intended to encourage appropriate use of public hospital services. With the introduction of A&E charge, A&E attendances dropped from 2.5 million in 2001/02 to 2.1 million in 2004/05. In recent years, whilst the attendances of A&E has climbed back to around 2.2 million, the A&E attendances for Triage Category IV (Semi-urgent) and Triage Category V (Non-urgent) have dropped by around 20% as compared with the figures in 2001/02. It shows that the introduction of A&E charge is effective in reducing the

number of attendances, in particular the number of semi-urgent and non-urgent cases.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grace Kei". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

(Ms Grace Kei)
for Secretary for Food and Health

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