



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

Our Ref. : FHB/H/16/11 Pt.5

Tel : 3509 8946

Your Ref. :

Fax : 2840 0467

31 July 2020

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

Dear Ms LAM,

Panel on Health Services

Follow-up to items relating to development of primary healthcare and setting up of District Health Centres

In consultation with the Department of Health (DH) and the Hospital Authority (HA), our consolidated reply on the captioned is provided below.

(a) Public Health Expenditure

2. Hong Kong has a twin-track healthcare system, with the public sector being the cornerstone providing the safety net for all. According to Hong Kong's Domestic Health Accounts¹, the Government's current health expenditure has doubled during the 10-year period from 2007/08 (\$38.7 billion) to 2017/18 (\$77.7 billion). The preliminary estimates for 2018/19 and 2019/20 increased further to \$85.4 billion and \$95.1 billion respectively. We have not specially accounted for the increase due to an aging population.

¹ The figures are compiled in accordance with the international standards given in *A System of Health Accounts 2011* published collaboratively by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Eurostat and World Health Organization.

(b) **Preventive Care for Middle-aged Adults**

3. Under the aforementioned twin-track healthcare system, public primary healthcare services in Hong Kong are mainly provided by DH and HA. Among other things, DH safeguards the community's health through a range of promotional and preventive primary care services. Some of the existing prevention programmes for adults under the age of 65 provided by DH and the expenditure involved are listed at **Annex**.

4. While HA does not provide specific prevention programmes for middle-aged adults, HA has provided a range of primary healthcare services, including the general out-patient services, risk factor assessment and management programme and nurse and allied health clinics, patient empowerment programme, community health centres and community nursing services. HA will also support the programmes of DH (e.g. the Government Vaccination Programme) where appropriate. In addition, to enhance support for chronic disease patients in both the public and private sectors in the local community, a \$10 billion public-private-partnership fund was set up under HA in 2016 so that HA can use the investment return to continue funding existing pilot projects and develop new projects as appropriate. These include the General Outpatient Clinic Public Private Partnership Programme, Haemodialysis Public Private Partnership Programme, Patient Empowerment Programme, etc.

5. As announced in the Chief Executive's Policy Address 2017, the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) is committed to enhancing district-based primary healthcare services through setting up District Health Centres (DHCs) across Hong Kong. The first DHC commenced operation in Kwai Tsing District in September 2019. The setting up of DHC is a key step in a bid to shift the emphasis of the present healthcare system and people's mindset from treatment-oriented to prevention-focused. With a view to enhancing public awareness of disease prevention and increasing their capability in self-management of health, DHC programmes cater for clients of all ages including middle-aged adults, e.g., on healthy diet, weight management, stress management, smoking cessation and alcohol reduction.

(c) **District Health Centres**

6. As aforementioned, the first DHC in Kwai Tsing District commenced operation in September 2019. The month-end cumulative membership enrollment and service attendance up to 31 March 2020 are tabulated below -

	Cumulative No. of Membership Enrollment	Cumulative Service Attendance
September 2019	633	591
October 2019	1 463	2 448
November 2019	1 911	5 105
December 2019	2 292	8 340
January 2020	2 660	11 046
February 2020	2 701	11 725
March 2020	2 912	12 526

7. Following Kwai Tsing, the Government has earmarked suitable sites for setting up DHCs in all the rest of the 17 districts and secured the support of the relevant District Councils (DCs) on the location of eight DHCs. The locations of the eight DHCs on which the relevant DCs have been consulted are set out below -

District	Location
Sham Shui Po	Shek Kip Mei Estate Development Phase 6 Commercial facilities
Wong Tai Sin	Diamond Hill Comprehensive Development Area
Wan Chai	Caroline Hill Road Commercial Site
Eastern	Siu Sai Wan Road, in the vicinity of Siu Sai Wan Complex
Yau Tsim Mong	Ex-Mong Kok Market Site
Kwun Tong	Civil Service College Composite Development
Tai Po	Ex-Jockey Club Swimming Pool Site at On Pong Road
Sai Kung	Tseung Kwan O Area 67

8. We aim to consult the other nine DCs on the location of DHC in their districts within the term of the current Government.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Molly HUI', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

(Miss Molly HUI)
for Secretary for Food and Health

Existing Programmes for Adults under the Age of 65

Programme	Target group	Details	Expenditure
1. Colorectal Cancer Screening Programme (“CRCSP”)	CRCSP is being implemented in phases to subsidise asymptomatic Hong Kong residents aged 50 to 75 to undergo screening tests	Subsidised colorectal cancer screening services are provided for eligible people through enrolled doctors in the private sector.	The expenditure for CRCSP in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 are \$44.6 million, \$90.0 million and \$123.1 million respectively. In 2019-20, the total provision is \$216.4 million.
2. Cervical Screening Programme (“CSP”)	Women aged 25 to 64 who ever had sex	This is a territory-wide screening programme implemented by DH since 2004 in collaboration with healthcare professionals in the public, private and non-governmental sectors to facilitate and encourage women aged 25 to 64 who ever had sex to receive cervical cancer screening. Being the major service provider of the CSP, DH’s 31 Maternal and Child Health Centres provide subsidised cervical screening service for eligible women and its three Woman Health Centres also provide cervical cancer screening for women aged 64 or below as part of the comprehensive women health service	Cervical screening provided by Family Health Service of DH is an integral part of the health services rendered, the expenditure for which cannot be separately identified.
3. Vaccination Subsidy Scheme	People aged between 50 and 64	Starting from 2018/19, the Government has expanded the eligible groups of the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme to cover people aged between 50 and 64 who can receive subsidised seasonal influenza (“SI”) vaccination.	Subsidy provided for people aged between 50 and 64 to receive SI vaccination is an integral part of the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme, the expenditure for which cannot be separately identified.