



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. : L/M to FHB/H/33/32 Pt. 24

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11 October 2017

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

Dear Ms LAM,

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services
Review on Mental Health**

At the meetings of the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services (“the Panel”) held on 25 April and 22 May 2017 respectively, Members of the Panel requested the Government to provide the following information –

- (a) information on a study conducted by expert(s) of the United Kingdom on the effectiveness of community treatment orders on clinical outcomes of patients with mental illness;
- (b) the proposed terms of reference of the standing advisory committee on mental health;
- (c) the outcome of the review on the effectiveness of the antipsychotic depot injections newly introduced into the Hospital Authority (“HA”) in 2017; and
- (d) the number of annual training places in the field of clinical psychology offered by local tertiary institutions.

I have been authorised to reply as follows –

- (a) the said study was conducted by Prof Tom BURNS of Oxford University. Full details of the study and its findings can be found from the relevant journal article¹ at **Annex**;
- (b) the preparation work relating to the establishment of the standing advisory committee is currently under way and the advisory committee is expected to be set up within the 4th quarter of 2017. Upon the establishment of the advisory committee and after its endorsement on the terms of reference at its first meeting, we will provide the terms of reference to Members for reference;
- (c) Over the years, HA has made every effort to list new generation psychiatric drugs which have proven effectiveness onto its Drug Formulary. Currently, the new generation long-acting antipsychotic ampoule has already been incorporated into the special drug category of the Drug Formulary. Psychiatrists will provide necessary drug treatment for patients as appropriate, having regard to their clinical needs and in accordance with the clinical treatment protocol. The number of patients who received the new generation long-acting antipsychotic injections at public hospitals in the past three years is tabulated below –

Financial year	Number of patients who received the new generation long-acting antipsychotic injections
2014-15	1 900
2015-16	2 200
2016-17	2 500

HA has established mechanisms in place to regularly appraise new drugs and review the drug list in the Drug Formulary, and would update it as appropriate. The review process follows the principles of evidence-based medicine, rational use of public resources, targeted subsidies, opportunity cost considerations and facilitation of patients' choice, having regard to the safety, efficacy and cost-effectiveness of drugs and taking

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into consideration other relevant factors, including international recommendations and practices, as well as the views of professionals and patient groups. HA will continue to review and introduce new drugs, and formulate guidelines for clinical use of such drugs in accordance with the established mechanism having regard to the principle of optimising the use of public resources and providing the most appropriate drug treatment for needy patients.

- (d) Currently, local tertiary institutions provide a total of 57 training places² in clinical psychology every two years.

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Yours sincerely,



(FONG Ngai)

for Secretary for Food and Health

² Currently, the Chinese University of Hong Kong provides 19 training places annually, while the University of Hong Kong provides 19 every other year.