



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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5 April 2017

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

Dear Ms Lam,

Thank you for your letter of 10 March 2017. Having consulted the Hospital Authority (HA), I provide the information about the infection control measures, workflow and guidelines of operating theatres (OTs) in cataract centres and other day surgery centres under the management of the HA in the ensuing paragraphs.

The HA attaches great importance to the environmental hygiene of surgery centres. To this end, infection control guidelines are established to ensure that the environmental quality of OTs and the disinfection and sterilisation procedures for reusable medical devices are up to the required standards, and that the healthcare staff in OTs comply with the Code of Practice as required. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), including pre-operative, intra-operative and post-operative clinical procedures, are in place in the Kowloon East Cluster (KEC) Cataract Centre for compliance by healthcare staff. Reviews of the guidelines and internal audits will also be conducted regularly to ensure that the operational standards are met.

Environmental control measures at cataract centres

The OTs of cataract centres are restricted areas. The layout and ventilation of facilities in the OTs are up to international standards. An OT should have 20-25 air changes per hour, and a positive pressure of 25 Pa has to be maintained.

According to the guidelines on environmental decontamination and sterilisation formulated by the HA, the OT is cleaned and disinfected before each operation, during the in-between time of each operation and after each operation. Air samples are taken from the OTs for microbiological tests at regular intervals. The test results obtained so far are in compliance with the requirements.

Disinfection and sterilisation of operating devices

All operating devices in the OTs are disposable or must be thoroughly sterilised before reuse. The cataract centres follow the HA guidelines on disinfection and sterilisation of reusable medical devices for OTs to ensure that the devices are effectively sterilised. In addition, a quality control programme has been put in place to ensure compliance with the sterilisation standards.

Clinical procedures before, during and after the operation

Before the operation, the cataract centre will assess the clinical condition of the patient to decide whether he is suitable for the operation. Besides, pre-operative education will be arranged and care education pamphlets provided for him according to a standard checklist.

During the operation, healthcare staff will, in accordance with the HA guideline and the SOP, perform surgical site disinfection and draping procedures for the patient, including the use of antibiotics and other drugs, skin and eye disinfection, and draping of eyelids and eye lashes.

After the operation, the cataract centre will provide the patient with anti-inflammatory and anti-infective eye drops and education pamphlets on post-operative care. Follow-up appointments will also be arranged to monitor the recovery progress and reduce the risks of complications.

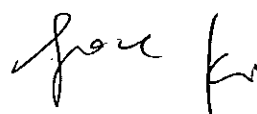
Staff training

All staff members are required to receive basic infection control training upon employment and attend a refresher course every 24 months. Apart from this, staff working in OTs are required to receive additional training in relevant aspects of the SOP and refresher training at regular intervals.

Quality and standard of KEC Cataract Centre

The cataract centre and the Integrated Disinfection and Sterilisation Services of Tseung Kwan O Hospital were accredited by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards International in 2015. The cataract centre also received in 2013 the Excellence in Patient Safety Award jointly presented by the Medical Protection Society and the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grace Kei', written in a cursive style.

(Ms Grace Kei)
for Secretary for Food and Health