



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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26 July 2018

Ms Maise LAM  
Clerk to Panel  
Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Fax: 2185 7845)

Dear Ms Lam,

**Panel on Health Services  
Follow-up to the meeting on 2 March 2018**

During the discussion on Cancer Strategy at the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services held on 2 March 2018, Members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information relating to cancer drug expenditure. Having consulted the Hospital Authority (HA), our response is as follows.

2. The following table sets out the drug consumption expenditure<sup>1</sup> of all 44 cancer drugs, irrespective of their current categorisation in the HA Drug Formulary, in the past three years –

<b>2015-16 (\$ billion)</b>	<b>2016-17 (\$ billion)</b>	<b>2017-18 (\$ billion)</b>
1.19	1.22	1.19

<sup>1</sup> Drug consumption expenditure of HA refers to the cost of the drugs dispensed to patients.

3. Rapid medical technological advances have brought in many new drugs to the market every year and market dynamics would affect the pricing strategies of different pharmaceutical companies. The clinical management of different diseases also evolves over time and may affect clinicians' choice of appropriate drug treatments for individual patients. Besides, the clinical conditions and response to drug treatment differ among patients, hence the number of treatment cycles and treatment duration cannot be predicted. Furthermore, treatment behaviour may change along with shift of responsibility for healthcare cost and continuous extension of line treatment may augment the actual treatment cost by multiple folds. In light of the above, the HA is unable to provide the estimated expenditure involved if all cancer drugs on the HA Drug Formulary are provided as subsidised services for all public hospital patients in future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clarissa Wan', is written over a faint, dotted grid background.

(Clarissa Wan)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Chief Executive, Hospital Authority  
(Attn.: Ms Dorothy Lam, Manager (Boards & Support))