

05 Dec 2017

Secretary of Joint panel on long-term health care policy subcommittee  
(長期護理政策聯合小組委員會秘書)  
Email: sc\_ltcp@legco.gov.hk

Dear Sirs,

### Hospice Services (寧養服務)

We refer to your email dated 29.11.17. We glad to hear that hospice services (寧養服務) will be discussed in Joint panel on long-term health care policy subcommittee (長期護理政策聯合小組委員會). Please note that target group of hospice and palliative care (PC) patients include both adults and children, who are suffering from incurable or life-threatening illness e.g. cancer, organ failures, degenerative illnesses and frail elderly. Since the care involve complex symptoms control and psycho-social-spiritual support, hospice & palliative care services should be provided by a group of specialists with qualified training.

In view of the limited time, we have difficulty to prepare a detail proposal, and try to highlight the following points for the existing services gaps.

1. Misunderstanding of hospice & PC services causing late referrals and unnecessary sufferings. Correct concept of hospice services should be promoted.
2. Inadequate support to carers of terminally ill patients. Resources to support patient stay in the community should be considered e.g. part-time helper, equipment, no pay leave & etc.
3. Allow ambulance support "Do-not-resuscitation" decision with document support.
4. Include insurance scheme & use of Medical voucher (醫療卷) for hospice-related services.

Please feel free to contact us if anything we can help. I can be reached at

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Yours sincerely,

*Theresa Lai*

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