

政府總部
民政事務局

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**GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
HOME AFFAIRS BUREAU**

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2 TIM MEI AVENUE,
TAMAR,
HONG KONG.

14 May 2019

Legislative Council Secretariat
(Attn: Ms. Joanne MAK)
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms. MAK,

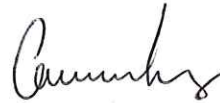
Panel on Home Affairs
Follow-up to the Meeting on 28 January 2019

At the meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs held on 28 January 2019, some Members requested for information on the following matters -

- (a) the rationale and justifications for setting the eligible age for receiving the “Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled” Programme under the Community Care Fund (CCF) to persons below 60; and
- (b) whether or not the drugs used for treatment of macular degeneration were included in the Drug Formulary of the Hospital Authority (HA) and covered by the standard fees and charges in public hospitals and clinics.

The information provided by the Social Welfare Department and HA on items (a) and (b) above respectively is enclosed at the Annex for Members’ reference.

Yours sincerely,



(Carmen KONG)
for Secretary for Home Affairs

Encl.

c.c. Secretary for Food and Health (Attn.: CEO(Health)7A)

Director of Social Welfare (Attn.: Senior Social Work Officer
(Community Care Fund))

Annex

Information provided by the Social Welfare Department: the “Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled”

The main objective of the CCF is to provide assistance to people facing financial difficulties, in particular those who fall outside the social safety net or those within the safety net but still have some special circumstances that are not covered. One of the operating principles of the CCF is that programmes should complement the assistance and services provided by the Government or other charitable funds and duplication of efforts should be avoided as far as practicable. Based on the above considerations, the “Special Care Subsidy for the Severely Disabled” Programme is targeted for persons with severe disabilities aged below 60 who are living in the community as those aged 60 or above may receive support from the existing subvented community support services for the elderly and for persons with disabilities.

Information provided by HA: Drugs used for treatment of macular degeneration

Two drugs, namely Aflibercept (Eylea) and Ranibizumab (Lucentis) are included in the HA Drug Formulary as self-financed items for treatment of neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration. To enhance the financial support for needy patients, HA liaises with pharmaceutical companies from time to time on setting up risk sharing programmes for certain suitable self-financed drugs. Under the special drug programme for the above-mentioned drugs, HA patients who fulfil the specified clinical conditions according to the clinical protocol are provided with the drug treatment at standard fees and charges for two years.