

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)1876/18-19
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PS/1/17

Panel on Health Services

Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Support for Cancer Patients

Minutes of the third meeting
held on Monday, 20 May 2019, at 2:45 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** : Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, BBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Kin-por, GBS, JP
Hon YIU Si-wing, BBS
Hon Charles Peter MOK, JP
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Dr Hon Helena WONG Pik-wan
Hon POON Siu-ping, BBS, MH
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN
Hon KWONG Chun-yu
Hon CHAN Hoi-yan
- Member absent** : Hon SHIU Ka-chun
- Public Officers attending** : Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP
Under Secretary for Food and Health
- Ms Leonie LEE Hoi-lun
Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Health) 1
Food and Health Bureau

Dr Rita HO
Consultant Community Medicine (Non-Communicable
Disease)
Department of Health

Attendance : Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation
by invitation

Dr Polly CHEUNG Suk-yee
Founder

The Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society

Mrs Patricia CHU
Chairman

Clerk in : Ms Maisie LAM
attendance Chief Council Secretary (2) 5

Staff in : Ms Priscilla LAU
attendance Council Secretary (2) 5

Miss Maggie CHIU
Legislative Assistant (2) 5

Action

I. **Cancer prevention and screening**

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1433/18-19(01) to (04), and CB(2)1462/18-19(01)]

The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

2. Members noted the Administration's response to issues concerning prevention and treatment of cancer raised at the meeting held on 26 April 2019 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1433/18-19(03)).

3. The Subcommittee received views from two deputations invited by the Subcommittee to attend the meeting, namely the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation and the Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society, and noted a written submission from an organization not attending the meeting.

Action

Proposal to undertake a duty visit to Taiwan

4. The Chairman suggested that the Subcommittee should consider at its next meeting the proposal to undertake a duty visit to Taiwan to obtain first-hand information on the cancer control, in particular breast cancer screening, experience of Taiwan. Members raised no objection. The Chairman requested the Research Office of the Information Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat to prepare a fact sheet on cancer strategy in Taiwan to facilitate members' consideration of the proposal.

Research
Office,
Legislative
Council
Secretariat

Follow-up actions required of the Administration

Admin

5. The Administration was requested to provide in writing the following information:

- (a) the respective estimated amount of expenditure required for the implementation of the following cancer screening programmes suggested by members:
 - (i) (aa) annual or biennial breast cancer screening with mammography for women aged 45 or above; or
(bb) annual or biennial breast cancer screening with mammography for women aged 50 or above;
 - (ii) annual liver cancer screening with alpha-fetoprotein blood test and ultrasonography for persons with chronic hepatitis B virus or hepatitis C virus infection, or liver cirrhosis; and
 - (iii) biennial prostate cancer screening by prostate-specific antigen blood test for men aged 50 or above; and
- (b) details of the scientific evidence and justifications for the latest recommendations on screening for the nine selected cancers made by the Cancer Expert Working Group on Cancer Prevention and Screening set up under the Cancer Coordinating Committee.

Action

II. Any other business

6. The Chairman advised that the next meeting of the Subcommittee would be scheduled for 25 June 2019 at 2:30 pm. Members would be informed of the details in due course.

7. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 4:30 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
22 August 2019

**Proceedings of the third meeting of the
Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Support for Cancer Patients
on Monday, 20 May 2019, at 2:45 pm
in Conference Room 3 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
<i>Agenda item I: Cancer prevention and screening</i>			
000413 - 000717	Chairman	Opening remarks Proposal for the Subcommittee to undertake a duty visit to Taiwan	
000718 - 001019	Chairman Admin	Briefing by the Administration on its paper and responses to the follow-up actions arising from the discussion at the meeting on 26 April 2019 (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1433/18-19(01) and (03))	
001020 - 001744	Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation ("HKBCF")	Presentation of views (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1433/18-19(05) and CB(2)1504/18-19(01))	
001745 - 002501	The Hong Kong Anti- Cancer Society	Presentation of views (LC Paper No. CB(2)1536/18-19(01))	
002502 - 002816	Chairman Admin	The Administration made the following responses to the views expressed by the deputations: (a) the Administration would promulgate a cancer strategy to set work priorities and directions on cancer surveillance, prevention and screening, early detection and diagnosis, timely and effective treatment, technology and support, survivorship and palliative care, and cancer research; (b) efforts had been and would continuously be made to reduce risk factors leading to cancer through promoting adoption of healthy lifestyles, such as avoiding tobacco consumption. An initiative in this regard was the introduction of the Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2019 into the Legislative Council to prohibit the import, manufacture, sale, distribution and advertisement of alternative smoking products; and (c) the University of Hong Kong ("HKU") had been commissioned to conduct a study for the formulation of strategies for breast cancer screening in Hong Kong ("the HKU Study"). The Administration would consider what type of screening was to be adopted for women of different risk profiles having regard to the scientific evidence and the outcome of the Study which was expected to be completed in the latter half of 2019.	
002817 - 003427	Chairman Dr Fernando CHEUNG Admin	Dr Fernando CHEUNG concurred with HKBCF that it was pragmatic to introduce risk and district-based mammography screening programme. In his view, there were sufficient international and local findings to support the implementation of population-based mammography screening in Hong	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		<p>Kong. He urged the Administration to map out a concrete timetable in this regard.</p> <p>Citing the existing Colorectal Cancer Screening Programme as an example, the Administration advised that screening for certain types of cancer should be provided to those population groups with a higher risk of developing that cancer. It was necessary to gather more research findings and data to explore whether it was appropriate to implement population-based mammography screening for asymptomatic women at average risk. The Study aimed to formulate a risk prediction model for breast cancer in Hong Kong using a case-control study approach under which a comparison was made between women with and without breast cancer.</p>	
003428 - 004959	Chairman Dr Pierre CHAN Admin HKBCF	<p>Dr Pierre CHAN remarked that population-based screening might not be suitable for all types of cancer. All types of screening tests for cancer, in particular blood tests, had their limitations. False-positive result in cancer screenings would lead to additional investigations which turned out to be unnecessary as well as anxiety and stress of the person who underwent the tests. In his view, the Administration should enhance public education in this regard.</p> <p>The Administration advised that:</p> <p>(a) the Cancer Expert Working Group on Cancer Prevention and Screening ("the Expert Working Group") under the Cancer Coordinating Committee would make regular recommendations on prevention and screening for nine selected cancers applicable to the local setting. Based on the Expert Working Group's recommendations, the Administration had launched territory-wide screening programmes for cervical cancer and colorectal cancer; and</p> <p>(b) a cochrane review in 2013 and studies in Canada, Switzerland and the United States suggested that organized breast screening programmes by mammography were effective in detection of tumours at an earlier stage and reduction in breast cancer mortality in their populations. However, harms such as false-positives, false-negatives, overdiagnosis, overtreatment and potential complications arising from subsequent invasive investigations or treatment might outweigh benefits. The view of the Expert Working Group was that there was insufficient evidence to recommend for or against population-based mammography screening for local women at average risk in Hong Kong. The Administration would decide the way forward in this regard having taken into account the findings of the HKU Study which was expected to be completed in the latter half of 2019.</p> <p>HKBCF said that Taiwan had introduced free breast cancer screening since 2004. A Taiwan study published in 2016 which covered the period from 1999 to 2009 and involved over 1.5 million women revealed that biennial</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		<p>mammography screening reduced stage II or above breast cancer cases by 30% and breast cancer mortality by 41%. With an overdiagnosis rate of 13%, mammography was considered a safe and reliable screening tool for breast cancer. Apart from 2D breast mammography, 3D breast mammography was available for those women who had dense breast tissue. The Administration should take into account the effectiveness of population-based mammography screening programmes in reducing breast cancer mortality in Australia, New Zealand Taiwan and the United Kingdom when considering the way forward in Hong Kong.</p>	
005000 - 005628	<p>Chairman Mr POON Siu-ping Admin</p>	<p>Mr POON Siu-ping's remark that the experience in Taiwan served a good reference for the implementation of population-based mammography screening for the prevention of breast cancer in Hong Kong; and the Administration's elaboration on various factors that should be taken into consideration when analyzing the findings of the Taiwan study.</p> <p>On Mr POON Siu-ping's enquiry about the time required by the Administration to decide the way forward after the completion of the HKU Study, the Administration advised that the Expert Working Group would review the findings of the HKU Study and made recommendations on the strategies for breast cancer screening in Hong Kong for the Administration's consideration.</p>	
005629 - 010111	<p>Chairman Dr Helena WONG Admin</p>	<p>Dr Helena WONG shared with HKBCF's view that population-based mammography screening was effective in detection of breast cancer at an earlier stage, especially for those high-risk women. She requested the Administration to advise in writing the estimated amount of expenditure required for the implementation of mammography screening for breast cancer.</p>	<p>Admin</p>
010112 - 010544	<p>Chairman Mr CHAN Han-pan</p>	<p>Mr CHAN Han-pan invited HKBCF to provide detailed information on the studies on breast cancer screening carried out in Taiwan and other countries.</p> <p>Citing the successful implementation of Colorectal Cancer Screening Programme, Mr CHAN Han-pan held the view that screening programmes for different types of cancer, in particular mammography screening for breast cancer, should be introduced in order to facilitate early detection and diagnosis of cancer.</p>	
010545 - 011132	<p>Chairman HKBCF</p>	<p>In response to the Chairman's enquiry, HKBCF said that subsidized breast cancer screening programmes were carried out in other Asian countries such as Singapore, Japan and South Korea. As regards the Mainland, breast cancer screening was provided for the targeted population in the rural villages.</p> <p>HKBCF's remarks on (a) its observations on the observational studies and the randomized controlled trials on breast cancer screening carried out in Taiwan, Canada and the United States; and (b) the outcomes of a study</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		concerning the risk factors associated with breast cancer carried out by HKBCF in September 2018.	
011133 - 011811	Chairman Dr KWOK Ka-ki Admin	<p>Dr KWOK Ka-ki urged the Administration to introduce population-based screening programmes for the prevention of breast, liver and prostate cancers, in particular for those under-privileged population who had a higher risk of developing cancers. He requested the Administration to advise in writing the respective estimated amount of expenditure required for the implementation of (a) annual liver cancer screening with alpha-fetoprotein blood test and ultrasonography for persons with chronic hepatitis B virus or hepatitis C virus infection, or liver cirrhosis; and (b) biennial prostate cancer screening by prostate-specific antigen blood test for men aged 50 or above.</p> <p>The Administration stressed that the Expert Working Group made its recommendations on whether population-based screening should be adopted for the selected cancers solely based on scientific evidence, international practice and local epidemiology but not the cost factor.</p>	Admin
011812 - 012004	Chairman Admin	On the Chairman's call for the Administration to map out a timetable for implementing mammography screening for breast cancer in Hong Kong, the Administration advised that it would determine the type of breast cancer screening to be adopted and the target population to be covered and hence, the manpower and financial resources required based on the Expert Working Group's recommendations.	
012005 - 013148	Chairman Dr Fernando CHEUNG HKBCF The Hong Kong Anti- Cancer Society Admin	<p>HKBCF replied in the negative whereas the Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society replied in the positive in response to Dr Fernando CHEUNG's enquiries as to whether they had representation on the Expert Working Group.</p> <p>On Dr Fernando CHEUNG's concern about the operation of the Expert Working Group, the Administration advised that Expert Working Group comprised representatives from relevant Colleges of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, local universities, non-governmental organizations, and the Hospital Authority. Since its establishment in 2002, the Expert Working Group had held 28 meetings to discuss issues in relation to the prevention and screening of common cancers in Hong Kong. Another meeting would be held to consider the findings of the HKU Study when available. The recommendation to be made by the Expert Working Group in this regard for endorsement by the Cancer Coordinating Committee would be available on the Centre for Health Protection's website. The Administration could provide after the meeting the scientific evidence and justifications of the latest recommendations for the nine selected cancers made by the Expert Working Group.</p> <p>In response to the Chairman and Dr Fernando CHEUNG's enquiries, the Administration advised that as a reference, it took the Administration two years' time to launch the colorectal cancer screening pilot programme and another</p>	Admin

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)/Discussion	Action required
		two years' time to regularize the programme after the Expert Working Group had made its recommendation.	
013149 - 014014	Chairman Ms CHAN Hoi-yan Admin	<p>Ms CHAN Hoi-yan expressed concern that the increasing incidence rate for different types of cancer in Hong Kong, in particular breast cancer, had demonstrated the ineffectiveness of the measures implemented by the Administration on prevention of cancer. In her view, the Administration should not turn a deaf ear to the call for the introduction of various screening programmes for early detection of cancer due to the lack of conclusive scientific evidence but should introduce free or subsidized mammography screening and prostate-specific antigen blood test for the prevention of breast cancer and prostate cancer respectively.</p> <p>The Administration advised that the view of the Expert Working Group was that there was insufficient evidence to support universal prostate-specific antigen screening to the general population. It was recommended that men at increased risk should consider seeking advice from doctors regarding the need for and approach of screening.</p>	
014015 - 014745	Chairman Dr Elizabeth QUAT Admin	<p>Considering that early diagnosis of cancer was conducive to treatment, Dr Elizabeth QUAT urged the Administration to introduce population-based mammography screening for breast cancer. While welcoming the provision of Human Papilloma Virus ("HPV") vaccination for prevention of cervical cancer to Primary Five and Six female students at the school setting, she considered that the Administration should make reference to the practice of other places and implement a catch-up programme in this regard for women aged 24 or below.</p> <p>The Administration advised that for the prevention of cervical cancer, it was recommended by the World Health Organization that girls aged 9 to 13 should be provided with two doses of HPV vaccine. Starting from the 2019-2020 school year, HPV vaccination would be included in the Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation Programme as a public health strategy for prevention of cervical cancer. In addition, cervical cancer screening was provided to eligible low-income women under a pilot scheme launched in 2017 under the Community Care Fund.</p>	
014746 - 014805	Chairman	Closing remarks	
<i>Agenda item II: Any other business</i>			
014806 - 014838	Chairman	Date of next meeting	