



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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Tel : 3509 8940
Fax : 2840 0467

23 July 2021

Clerk to Bills Committee on Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021
(Attn: Ms Natalie YEUNG)
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms YEUNG,

Bills Committee on Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021

Follow-up actions arising from meeting on 14 July 2021

Further to the Bills Committee meeting on 14 July 2021, the requested supplementary information is provided at **Enclosure**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ricky WU'.

(Ricky WU)

for Secretary for Food and Health

Bills Committee on Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021

Follow-up actions arising from meeting on 14 July 2021

The Government's responses are as follows –

- (a) The table below sets out the number of specialist out-patient new cases triaged as Priority 1 (urgent), Priority 2 (semi-urgent) and Routine (stable) cases; and their respective median (50th percentile) and longest (90th percentile) waiting time in New Territories West Cluster of the Hospital Authority (“HA”) in 2020-21 –

Specialty	Priority 1			Priority 2			Routine		
	Number of new cases	Waiting Time (weeks)		Number of new cases	Waiting Time (weeks)		Number of new cases	Waiting Time (weeks)	
		50 th	90 th		50 th	90 th		50 th	90 th
		percentile			percentile			percentile	
ENT	3 384	<1	1	1 610	4	7	9 293	40	79
MED	915	<1	1	3 034	5	7	10 485	77	118
GYN	1 328	<1	1	317	6	11	4 810	70	73
OPH	9 487	<1	1	2 651	3	6	7 733	17	65
ORT	1 816	<1	2	1 795	6	7	11 038	79	97
PAE	231	<1	1	676	6	7	1 269	21	29
PSY	492	1	1	1 595	3	7	5 045	33	64
SUR	2 058	1	2	4 900	6	14	18 659	58	116

Abbreviations

ENT – Ear, Nose & Throat

ORT – Orthopaedics & Traumatology

MED – Medicine

PAE – Paediatrics

GYN – Gynaecology

PSY – Psychiatry

OPH – Ophthalmology

SUR – Surgery

Notes

1. HA uses 90th percentile to denote the longest waiting time for specialist out-patient service.
2. In view of the emergence of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 epidemic in Hong Kong since early 2020, HA has adjusted its services in response to the epidemic along with tightening up infection control measures. Hence, the service throughput across a wide range of services provided by HA might have been reduced when compared with that of previous years.

- (b) Under the existing mechanism, the recurrent grants to the eight University Grants Committee (“UGC”)-funded universities are in the form of a block grant which provides for a one-line allocation of resources for a funding period (usually a triennium). Universities enjoy autonomy in the allocation of the block grant to programmes of various disciplines at different levels as they see fit. In addition to UGC funding, universities have other sources of income such as donations and other research funding. In this regard, the actual costs reported by universities are not solely covered by UGC funding, while the UGC is also unable to estimate the actual subvention or expenditure on specific programmes by level of study and academic programme category (“APC”).

The average student unit cost of UGC-funded undergraduate programmes of APCs of Medicine, Sciences, Social Sciences and Arts and Humanities in the 2019/20 academic year as reported by the universities are as follows –

APC	Average student unit cost for undergraduate programmes in the 2019/20 academic year (\$)
Medicine	598,000
Sciences ^{Note 1}	292,000
Social Sciences ^{Note 2}	236,000
Arts and Humanities ^{Note 3}	228,000

Notes:

1. Includes the reported costs of programmes mapped under the APC of biological sciences, physical sciences, mathematical sciences, and computer science and information technology.
2. Includes the reported costs of programmes mapped under the APC of social sciences, law, and mass communication and documentation.
3. Includes the reported costs of programmes mapped under the APC of languages and related studies, humanities, and arts, design and performing arts.

- (c) The Government has not compiled statistics on the number of Hong Kong permanent residents studying Medicine in other places. Hence, the requested information could not be provided.

That said, in the past few years, the Secretary for Food and Health visited the United Kingdom and Australia to promote the medical registration arrangements with proactive recruitment drive to facilitate practice of qualified non-locally trained doctors in Hong Kong. Based on the

information provided by the relevant medical student associations, we estimate that there may be hundreds of Hong Kong students currently studying Medicine outside Hong Kong and thousands of Hong Kong residents practising Medicine in other places.

In the years ahead, with the promulgation of the list of recognised medical qualifications awarded by non-local medical schools following the passage of the Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021, parents and students in Hong Kong could have a more informed basis to make decisions on pursuing further studies on Medicine outside Hong Kong. We envisage that more Hong Kong students will consider enrolling on the recognised medical programmes and returning to Hong Kong to practise after graduation.
