



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部醫務衛生局
Health Bureau, Government Secretariat
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

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Ms Macy NG
Senior Council Secretary (4)3
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms NG,

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services
Follow-Up Item of 11 June 2021 Meeting**

The Legislative Council Panel on Health Services discussed about women's health at the meeting on 11 June 2021 and Members requested the Administration to provide supplementary information. In consultation with the Hospital Authority (HA), the reply is as follows:

The HA has been implementing triage measures for new referral cases of the Specialist Out-patient Clinics (SOPC) to ensure that patients with urgent conditions and needs can receive consultation and treatment as soon as possible. The current triage system is that new patients are first screened by nurses and then reviewed by doctors of the relevant specialties for classification into Urgent (Priority 1), Semi-urgent (Priority 2) and Stable (Routine) categories. The HA's targets are to maintain the median waiting time of Urgent and Semi-urgent cases within two weeks and eight weeks respectively. At present the median waiting time of these two categories of patients are maintained within the set targets.

To enhance management of the waiting time for specialist out-patient services, the Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address announced adoption of multi-pronged approach including allocating additional resources to handle new cases, streamlining referral arrangement for cross-specialty cases, set up of integrated clinics to provide multi-disciplinary support so as to minimize patients' waiting time for different Specialist Out-patient Clinics; as well as to strengthen primary healthcare and public-private partnership for further follow-up of specialist out-patients with stable conditions.

At present, patients with suspected cancers may seek further investigation at the HA's Specialist Out-patient Clinics upon presentation of referral letters from private or primary healthcare doctors. The HA does not keep a record of the waiting time for new cases of individual cancer types. As for the latest waiting time for stable new case booking at SOPC have been uploaded to https://www.ha.org.hk/haho/ho/sopc/dw_wait_ls.pdf

Yours faithfully,



(Howard CHU)
for Secretary for Health

c.c. Hospital Authority