

Masterclasses

M8.1**Lead in Drinking Water Incident in Hong Kong 2015****16:15 Room 221****An Overview of the Incident Management by the Public Health System***Wong RSM**Consultant Physician, Prince of Wales Hospital, Hong Kong*

In July 2015, lead levels in water of a public housing estate was higher than the World Health Organization's recommended level. Further investigations showed that the situation spread to more public housing estates which were subsequently confirmed to be caused by excessive lead in solder. Hospital Authority Toxicology Service (HATS), in collaboration with Department of Health and relevant disciplines in the Hospital Authority, responded this incident promptly with immediate evidence-based risk assessment, formulation of care protocols, risk communication as well as public education. Various hospitals have been providing blood taking and follow-up services to affected residents under the Government Voluntary Blood Lead Level Screening Programme which was subsequently extended to young children exposed to excessive lead in drinking water of Kindergartens and other institutions. The establishment of HATS has facilitated the concerted efforts of all relevant parties to handle the incidents. In addition to clinical care of affected citizens, public education and risk communication are equally important in incident management.