

Tuesday, 15 January 2019

## **Means Test Mechanism of Samaritan Fund and Community Care Fund Medical Assistance Programmes Enhances**

Hospital Authority (HA) today (15 January) welcomes the approval of the Commission on Poverty to include new drugs and medical device (seven self-financed cancer drugs and one medical device related to Percutaneous Coronary Intervention) in the medical assistance programmes of Community Care Fund (CCF) as well as the budget of respective programmes for next year. The Commission on Poverty also approved the enhancement measures of means test mechanism of medical assistance programmes.

The spokesperson for HA said, “the Commission on Poverty endorsed the enhancement measures of means test mechanism of medical assistance programmes under the CCF. For the programme ‘Subsidy for Eligible Patients to Purchase Ultra-expensive Drugs (including those for treating uncommon disorders)’, the enhancement measures are applicable for applications under this programme submitted since January 2019. With the implementation of the enhancement measures, it is anticipated that financial burden of patients’ household on medical expenses will be alleviated.”

“In addition, for Samaritan Fund (SF), CCF Medical Assistance Programme (First Phase Programme) and ‘Subsidy for Eligible Patients of HA to Purchase Specified Implantable Medical Devices for Interventional Procedures’, the enhancement measures on means test will take effect on 16 February.

The spokesperson said a consultancy study was commissioned in December 2017 to review the existing means test mechanism for SF and CCF Medical Assistance Programmes. Based on the review findings, the Government and HA will introduce enhancement measures to the existing means test mechanism, which include modifying the calculation of Annual Disposable Financial Resources for drug subsidy applications and refining the definition of “household” adopted in financial assessment. The enhancement measures are also applicable for patients who are subsidised by the Funds and contributing part of the drug cost upon implementation of the enhancement measures. HA will write to inform these patients individually about the details of the arrangement as well as posting the details on HA website.

Members of the public or people in need may approach medical social workers at public hospitals or visit HA website for details of SF and CCF Medical Assistance Programmes, as well as the enhancement measures of means test mechanism. The details of the enhancement measures will also be promulgated through posters in public hospitals.

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