



**Minutes of Hospital Authority Board Meeting
held on Thursday 23 June 2022 at 4:15 p.m.
in Conference Hall, 2/F, HA Building, 147B Argyle Street, Kowloon**

Present :	Mr Henry FAN Hung-ling, SBS, JP	(Chairman)
	Mr Thomas CHAN Chung-ching, JP Permanent Secretary for Food and Health (Health)	(via web conference)
	Prof Francis CHAN Ka-leung, SBS, JP	(via web conference)
	Mr CHAN Wing-kai	(via web conference)
	Ms Margaret CHENG Wai-ching, JP	(via web conference)
	The Hon Duncan CHIU	(via web conference)
	Mr Ambrose HO, SBS, JP	(via web conference)
	Ms Mary HUEN Wai-yi	(via web conference)
	Dr Tony KO Pat-sing Chief Executive	
	Mrs Ann KUNG YEUNG Yun-chi, JP	(via web conference)
	Mr Daniel LAM Chun, SBS, JP	(via web conference)
	Mr Franklin LAM Fan-keung, BBS	(via web conference)
	Dr Ronald LAM Man-kin, JP Director of Health	(via web conference)
	Prof LAU Chak-sing, JP	(via web conference)
	Mr Raistlin LAU Chun, JP Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) ¹	(via web conference)
	Ms Lisa LAU Man-man, BBS, MH, JP	(via web conference)

Prof Gabriel Matthew LEUNG, GBS, JP (via web conference)
Dr LEUNG Wing-cheong (via web conference)
Prof David SHUM Ho-keung (via web conference)
Mr Philip TSAI Wing-chung, BBS, JP (via web conference)
Dr Thomas TSANG Ho-fai (via web conference)
Mr WAN Man-yea, BBS, JP (via web conference)
Ir Billy WONG Wing-hoo, BBS, JP (via web conference)
Miss Margaret CHEUNG (Secretary)
Head of Corporate Services

Absent with :
apology

Prof CHAN Wai-yea
Mr David FONG Man-hung, BBS, JP
Ms Maisy HO Chiu-ha, BBS
Prof Agnes TIWARI Fung-yea

In attendance :

Ms Anita CHAN (via web conference)
Director (Finance)
Dr Beatrice CHENG
Cluster Chief Executive (New Territories East)
Dr Eric CHEUNG (via web conference)
Cluster Chief Executive (Kowloon Central)
Dr N T CHEUNG (via web conference)
Head of Information Technology and Health Informatics
Dr K L CHUNG (via web conference)
Director (Quality and Safety)
Dr LAM Ming (via web conference)
Deputising Cluster Chief Executive (New Territories West)

Dr C B LAW
Cluster Chief Executive (Kowloon West) *(via web conference)*

Dr Libby LEE
Director (Strategy and Planning) *(via web conference)*

Mr Savio LEUNG
Deputising Chief Internal Auditor *(via web conference)*

Dr Theresa LI
Cluster Chief Executive (Hong Kong West)

Mr David MAK
Head of Human Resources *(via web conference)*

Dr Loletta SO
Cluster Chief Executive (Hong Kong East) *(via web conference)*

Dr Simon TANG
Director (Cluster Services)

Dr Deacons YEUNG
Cluster Chief Executive (Kowloon East) *(via web conference)*

Mr Frankie YIP
Chief Manager (Corporate Communication) *(via web conference)*

Mr Daniel LO
Chief Manager (Allied Health)
[For discussion of HAB Paper No. 322]

Dr Anderson TSANG
Assistant Professor (Department of
Neurosurgery), Queen Mary Hospital
[For discussion of HAB Paper No. 324]

Mr Andy LAU
Chief Manager (Boards & General)

Ms Phoebe LEUNG
Senior Manager (Boards & Support)

Ms Joanna KOO
Manager (Boards & Support)

In attendance : Dr Fefe CHAN
(Attachees of the Corporate Exposure Programme)
Clinical Psychologist, Clinical Psychology, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital

Mr Thomas CHEUNG
Senior Occupational Therapist, Occupational Therapy Department, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital

Ms Patricia LEE
General Manager (Nursing), Central Nursing Division, North District Hospital

Mr Brian MA
Senior Physiotherapist, Physiotherapy, Tuen Mun Hospital

Mr John TSE
System Manager, Network Management Section, Information Technology and Health Informatics Division, Head Office

Ms S Y YUEN
Department Operations Manager, Specialist Out-Patient Clinic, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital

Declaration of Interest

The Chairman invited Members to declare conflict of interest, if any, arising from the agenda items of, or discussion at, the meeting. There was no declaration from Members.

Confirmation of Minutes

2. The draft minutes of the last Board Meeting held on 31 March 2022 were confirmed without amendments.

Matters Arising

3. There was no outstanding item arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Report on Outcomes of the Administrative & Operational Meeting

4. The Chairman reported that at the Administrative & Operational Meeting (AOM) held on 23 June 2022, the Hospital Authority (HA) Board considered and approved the following matters :

- (a) Enhancement to Home Loan Interest Subsidy Scheme;
- (b) Proposed Enhancement on Relocation Allowance and Passage Arrangements for New Recruits from Outside Hong Kong;
- (c) Proposed Visiting Doctors Programme for the Greater Bay Area;
- (d) Application for Access to Information;
- (e) Placement Arrangement for the Hospital Authority Public-Private Partnership Fund;
- (f) Renewal of Employees' Compensation Insurance Policy – A Letter of Indemnity Undertaking for Insurer;
- (g) 2021/22 Audited Accounts of the Community Care Fund Medical Assistance Programmes;
- (h) Membership of the Trust Board of the Hospital Authority Provident Fund Scheme; and
- (i) Appointment of Head of Corporate Services.

Other matters noted or discussed by the HA Board at the AOM included :

- (a) Updates on COVID-19;
- (b) Report on Key Performance Indicators; and
- (c) Progress Reports of Committees of the HA Board.

5. The Chairman also reported that Prof Sophia CHAN, Secretary for Food and Health (SFH), had joined part of the AOM and shared with the Board a brief review on HA's contributions to the public healthcare services in the past five years.

**Annual Report on the Operation of the Community Care Fund Medical Assistance Programmes
(HA Board Paper No. 322)**

6. Mr Daniel LO recapped that HA was the implementing agency of the three Community Care Fund (CCF) Medical Assistance Programmes which were under the supervision of the Food and Health Bureau (FHB), namely CCF Medical Assistance Programme - First Phase Programme (First Phase Programme); Subsidy for Eligible Patients to Purchase Ultra-expensive Drugs (Including Those for Treating Uncommon Disorders) (UED Programme); and Subsidy for Eligible Patients of HA to Purchase Specified Implantable Medical Devices for Interventional Procedures (MD Programme). The number of approved applications for the First Phase Programme, UED Programme and MD Programme in 2021/22 were 3 216, 43 and 129 respectively, and the total subsidy granted were \$743.06 million, \$81.37 million and \$33.31 million respectively. The three big spenders under the First Phase Programme in 2021/22 were Pembrolizumab for lung cancer, Osimertinib for lung cancer and Bevacizumab for colorectal cancer, accounting for 47% of the total amount of subsidy granted for drug applications. The average amount of subsidy granted per application for the three Programmes were \$231,050, \$1,892,410 and \$258,210 respectively.

7. With the support of the HA CCF Administration Committee, changes in the coverage of the three Programmes in 2021/22 were approved by relevant authorities of CCF, including, amongst others, three new drugs for the First Phase Programme and two new drugs for the UED Programme. With these changes, the First Phase Programme and the UED Programme covered 35 self-financed cancer drugs and six ultra-expensive drugs respectively as at 31 March 2022, while the number of implantable medical devices covered by MD Programme remained as six.

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8. In regard to quality assurance, various audits/checks were conducted according to the prevailing mechanism including (a) clinical audit for ensuring doctor's referrals for CCF assistance were in compliance with the prevailing clinical guidelines; (b) financial assessment audit for ensuring the financial assessment of CCF applications by Medical Social Services Units followed the established guidelines, and (c) post-approval check for detecting and deterring potential fraud and abuse.

9. In addition to the existing measures to enhance publicity of the First Phase Programme, UED Programme and MD Programme, a one-stop portal namely Medical Fee Assistance Application (App) was introduced in the Payment section of HA Go in late April 2022 to optimise patient experience in applying for medical fee assistance, including Samaritan Fund and CCF Medical Assistance Programmes. With this App, patients were allowed to make preliminary assessment of their financial eligibility for applying for medical fee assistance programmes; keep track of the application progress; and review the details of the approved subsidy and utilisation to facilitate their preparation for renewing respective applications for financial assistance of drug items.

**Progress Report on Strategic Priorities
(HA Board Paper No. 323)**

10. Dr Tony KO updated Members on the implementation progress of HA's strategic priorities in the first quarter of 2022 (1Q22). Amongst the 372 individual programmes planned for completion in 1Q22, 249 and 44 programmes were achieved on schedule and partially achieved respectively. The remaining 79 programmes were deferred mainly due to the impact of COVID-19 epidemic and manpower availability, etc. HA would continue close monitoring on the deferred programmes.

**Cluster Presentation Programme - Hong Kong West Cluster -
Improving Functional Outcome of Acute Ischaemic Stroke Patients
(HA Board Paper No. 324)**

11. Dr Anderson TSANG briefed Members on the implementation of the comprehensive acute ischemic stroke service in Hong Kong West Cluster (HKWC). As acute ischemic stroke was caused by the sudden occlusion of blood vessels supplying blood to the brain, acute treatment in the form of Intra-venous thrombolysis (IVT) and Intra-arterial Thrombectomy (IAT) were helpful in re-opening the blocked vessels and thus restoring cerebral blood flow of patients. In 2011, 24-hour IVT service was implemented in Queen Mary Hospital (QMH) and was currently available in all acute hospitals of HA. For IAT, 24-hour service had been available in QMH since 2018 through the collaborative

efforts of various departments, including Neurosurgery, Neurology, Accident & Emergency (A&E), Medicine, Radiology, Anesthesiology, Operating Theatre Service.

12. In light that the time taken to restore the brain perfusion would directly impact on the clinical outcomes of patients, continuous efforts had been made to increase public awareness of the importance of timely recognition the onset of stroke, such as active promotion of stroke awareness through collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine of The University of Hong Kong via different platforms, including radio and television programmes, social media campaign, etc. In addition, various activities were held to educate the public on the acute symptoms of stroke and reinforce the concept that acute stroke was treatable and potentially reversible with early detection and medical attention and appropriate treatment.

13. Given the critical importance of time to stroke treatment in influencing clinical outcomes, a pilot project with the Fire Services Department was launched in HKWC in 2018 to develop pre-hospital stroke screening and alert protocol for residents on the ambulance within the catchment area of HKWC. Under this arrangement, A&E department and the stroke team of QMH could be alerted ahead of patient's arrival for making advance preparation for patient triage and radiological imaging and thus expediting treatment. In view of the success of this stroke alert protocol which significantly reduced the door-to-treatment time by 34 minutes, it had been implemented in other clusters in late 2021. As for radiological imaging, Computer Tomography (CT) and CT angiogram were arranged for stroke patients in a protocol-driven manner to ensure early diagnosis of patients. The adoption of an automated and artificial-intelligence assisted programme in QMH was instrumental in facilitating the decision-making process of physicians by generating initial interpretation of CT brain imaging for stroke patients around the clock and in a prompt manner. Coupling with the streamlined logistics for admitting stroke patients and the subsequent arrangement of IAT procedure, the time taken from admission of patient to beginning of IAT surgery was reduced from 3.5 hours in 2015-16 to around 2 hours since 2019-20.

14. With the commitment and dedication of the neuro-intervention team, comprising of interventional radiologists, endovascular neurosurgeons, and endovascular stroke physicians, to provide 24-hour on-call coverage and improve the operative techniques and patient services, the recanalisation rate steadily improved from 78% in 2015-16 to over 95% in 2020-21 and the proportion of stroke patients regaining functional independence also increased from 35% to 48%. As the only 24-hour IAT hospital on Hong Kong Island, Ruttonjee Hospital

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and Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital could refer patients to receive treatment at QMH after office hours.

15. Looking ahead, the opening of the new dedicated angiosuite next to A&E department in QMH and allocation of additional resources to strengthen the surgical capacity would help further enhance the acute stroke service in HKWC. To strive for a sustainable, efficient and comprehensive service model, the feasibility of service transformation by providing IVT and IAT in designated centers with the aid of a diversion system for stroke patients would be explored to optimise the use of resources and expertise.

Vote of Thanks

16. Prof Gabriel LEUNG, the departing Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of The University of Hong Kong, would leave the HA Board with effect from 15 July 2022. The Chairman thanked Prof Leung for his tremendous contributions to the HA Board in the past nine years.

17. The Chairman also expressed a vote of thanks to Miss Margaret CHEUNG, Head of Corporate Services, who would start her pre-retirement leave on 29 July 2022; and Dr Libby LEE, Director (Strategy & Planning), who would second to Primary Healthcare Office of the Health Bureau with effect from 1 July 2022.

Date of Next Meeting

18. The next Open Board Meeting was scheduled for Thursday 22 September 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Hall, HA Building.

19. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.