



**Minutes of Hospital Authority Board Meeting
held on Thursday 29 June 2023 at 4:30 p.m.
in Conference Hall, 2/F, HA Building, 147B Argyle Street, Kowloon**

Present :

Mr Henry FAN Hung-ling, SBS, JP	(Chairman)
Prof Francis CHAN Ka-leung, SBS, JP	(via web conference)
Mr Lawrence CHAN Man-yiu	(via web conference)
Mr CHAN Wing-kai	(via web conference)
Dr Amy CHIU Pui-yin, JP Representing Director of Health	(via web conference)
Ms Margaret CHENG Wai-ching, JP	(via web conference)
The Hon Duncan CHIU	(via web conference)
Ms Anita FUNG Yuen-mei, BBS, JP	(via web conference)
Mr Ambrose HO, SBS, SC, JP	(via web conference)
Ms Maisy HO Chiu-ha, BBS	(via web conference)
Ms Mary HUEN Wai-yi, JP	(via web conference)
Mr Sam HUI Chark-shum, JP Representing Permanent Secretary for Health	(via web conference)
Mr JAT Sew-tong, SBS, SC, JP	
Dr Tony KO Pat-sing, JP Chief Executive	
Prof LAU Chak-sing, BBS, JP	
Dr LEUNG Wing-cheong	
Mr Aaron LIU Kong-cheung, JP Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury)1	(via web conference)

Prof David SHUM Ho-keung

Mr Philip TSAI Wing-chung, BBS, JP

Dr Thomas TSANG Ho-fai, BBS *(via web conference)*

Mr WAN Man-ye, BBS, JP

Mr Andy LAU *(Secretary)*
Head of Corporate Services

Absent with : * Prof CHAN Wai-ye
apology
(*Out of HK) * Mrs Sylvia LAM YU Ka-wai, SBS

* Mr Anthony TSANG Hin-fun

Prof Agnes TIWARI Fung-ye

Mr Henry TONG Sau-chai, MH, JP

Ir Billy WONG Wing-hoo, BBS, JP

In attendance : Ms Anita CHAN
Director (Finance)

Dr Eric CHEUNG *(via web conference)*
Cluster Chief Executive (Kowloon Central)

Dr N T CHEUNG
Head of Information Technology and Health
Informatics

Dr W K CHING
Director (Strategy and Planning)

Dr K L CHUNG
Cluster Chief Executive (New Territories East)

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

Dr Theresa LI *(via web conference)*
Cluster Chief Executive (Hong Kong West)

Mr David MAK
Head of Human Resources

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

Dr Simon TANG
Director (Cluster Services)

Dr WONG Yiu-chung
Cluster Chief Executive (New Territories West) *(via web conference)*

Dr Michael WONG
Director (Quality and Safety)

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

Mr Savio LEUNG
Senior Manager (Group Internal Audit)

Mr Frankie YIP
Chief Manager (Corporate Communication)

Ms Priscilla POON
Chief Manager (Allied Health)
[For discussion of HAB Paper No. 335]

Prof T Y LEUNG
Honorary Consultant (Obstetrics &
Gynaecology)
Prince of Wales Hospital
[For discussion of HAB Paper No. 337]

Dr Ada TSE
Associate Consultant (Obstetrics &
Gynaecology)
Prince of Wales Hospital
[For discussion of HAB Paper No. 337]

Ms Natalia LI
Chief Manager (Boards & General)

Ms Michele LIU
Senior Manager (Boards & Support)

Ms Joanna KOO
Manager (Boards & Support)

In attendance : Dr Sandy LEUNG
(Attachees of the Associate Consultant, Department of Medicine & Geriatrics, Our
Corporate Lady of Maryknoll Hospital
Exposure Programme)
Ms Anita O
Senior Finance Manager, Finance Services Support, Pamela
Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital
Mr Ricky TO
Senior Physiotherapist, Physiotherapy, Tuen Mun Hospital
Dr Teresa TSE
Associate Consultant, Neurosurgery, Princess Margaret Hospital
Dr Fergus WONG
Associate Consultant, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern
Hospital
Ms Sharifa YAM
Senior Occupational Therapist, Occupational Therapy
Department, Kwai Chung 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 23 March 2023 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 29 June 2023, the Hospital Authority (HA) Board considered and approved the following items :

- (a) Update on Planning and Preparations for Hospital Authority Body Corporate;
- (b) 2023/24 Annual Pay Adjustment of the Hospital Authority;
- (c) 2022/23 Audited Accounts of the Community Care Fund Medical Assistance Programmes;
- (d) Membership of The Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital Charitable Trust; and
- (e) Update on Visiting Radiographer (Diagnostics) Programme.

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

- (a) Update on Strategies in Attracting Non-locally Trained Doctors;
- (b) Report on Key Performance Indicators;
- (c) Updates on COVID-19;

- (d) Progress Reports of Committees of the Hospital Authority Board; and
- (e) Senior Executive Appointments.

**Annual Report on the Operation of the Community Care Fund Medical Assistance Programmes
(HA Board Paper No. 335)**

5. Ms Priscilla POON recapped that HA was the implementing agency of the three Community Care Fund (CCF) Medical Assistance Programmes, which were under the supervision of the Health Bureau, namely (a) CCF Medical Assistance Programme - First Phase Programme (First Phase Programme); (b) Subsidy for Eligible Patients to Purchase Ultra-expensive Drugs (Including Those for Treating Uncommon Disorders) (UED Programme); and (c) Subsidy for Eligible Patients of HA to Purchase Specified Implantable Medical Devices for Interventional Procedures (MD Programme). With the support of the HA CCF Administration Committee, relevant authorities of CCF approved (a) nine new drugs, six new/relaxed indications and the repositioning of 19 drugs/indications to Samaritan Fund (SF) for the First Phase Programme; (b) three new drugs and one relaxed indication for the UED Programme; and (c) one medical device and one indication for the MD Programme during the period from April 2022 to May 2023. With the implementation of all new drugs/indications and the repositioning of a number of cancer drugs from First Phase Programme to SF as reported to the Medical Services Development Committee in April 2023, the First Phase Programme, the UED Programme and the MD Programme would cover 32 self-financed drugs, nine ultra-expensive drugs and six implantable medical devices respectively.

6. Regarding the number of approved applications, 3 035, 64 and 143 applications were approved under the First Phase Programme, the UED Programme and the MD Programme respectively in 2022/23, and the respective amount of subsidy granted for the three Programmes were \$710.24 million, \$131.99 million and \$36.89 million. The average amount of subsidy granted per application for the three Programmes were \$234,016, \$2,062,349 and \$257,991 respectively. For the three big spenders under the First Phase Programme in 2022/23, namely Pembrolizumab for lung cancer, Osimertinib for lung cancer and Bevacizumab for colorectal cancer, they accounted for 44% of the total amount of subsidy granted for drug applications.

7. The results of clinical audits conducted on selected applications approved in 2020/21 for (a) Pembrolizumab for first-line treatment for metastatic non-small cell lung cancer with high PD-L1 expression (Tumor Proportion Score \geq 50%) with no epidermal growth

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factor receptor or anaplastic lymphoma kinase genomic tumour aberrations and (b) Impella for high-risk Percutaneous Coronary Intervention, as well as that of financial assessment audit on selected CCF applications made from 1 January to 31 December 2022, were reported. Briefly, 13 out of 14 selected cases of Pembrolizumab and all seven selected cases of Impella fully complied with the prevailing clinical guidelines. As for the financial assessment audit, 66 applications, representing 96% of the selected cases, were in full compliance with the essential areas listed in the existing guidelines, while debt recovery procedures were completed for the remaining three cases with subsidy amount affected. In parallel, a post-approval check covering a total of 3 396 selected applications approved in 2021/22 and 2022/23 was underway.

8. Following the launch of the Medical Fee Assistance Application (the App), a one-stop portal integrated with HA mobile Application “HA Go”, in late April 2022 to optimise patient experience in applying for medical fee assistance and facilitate communication with patients, an enhancement was recently made to the App to allow patients to upload documents for the financial assessment upon request made by Medical Social Services Units.

9. Members were also informed that changes to the Delegation of Authority (DoA) for approving funding applications and financial operations of SF, which were also applicable to CCF Medical Assistance Programmes as appropriate, were approved by the HA Board at its AOM held on 17 November 2022 and had taken effect on the same day. After that, review of the DoA for SF and CCF Medical Assistance Programmes would be conducted every three years, with changes to DoA, if any, be presented to the Management Committee of SF and HA CCF Administration Committee for endorsement before submission to the HA Board for approval.

(Mr Duncan CHIU left the meeting at this juncture.)

Progress Report on Strategic Priorities
(HA Board Paper No. 336)

10. Dr Tony KO updated Members on the implementation progress of HA’s strategic priorities in the first quarter of 2023 (1Q23). Amongst the 410 individual programmes planned for completion in 1Q23, 314 and 34 programmes were achieved on schedule and partially achieved respectively. The remaining programmes were deferred mainly due to the impact of COVID-19 epidemic and manpower shortage, etc. HA would continue close monitoring on the deferred programmes.

**Cluster Presentation Programme - New Territories East Cluster –
Advances in Fetal Therapy
(HA Board Paper No. 337)**

11. Prof T Y LEUNG briefed Members that the dedicated Fetal Medicine Team (FMT) established in the New Territories East Cluster (NTEC) since 1996 served as a pioneer in introducing various innovative fetal surgeries to Hong Kong, and was the first team to carry out fetoscopic surgery in Hong Kong. FMT had performed over 750 complex fetal surgeries since 2010 to save many fetal lives and bring hope to their families, which included fetoscopic laser photocoagulation for twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome, in-utero transfusion for fetal anaemia, insertion of pleuro-amniotic shunt for hydrothorax, fetoscopic endotracheal occlusion for severe congenital diaphragmatic hernia, and fetoscopic repair of neural tube defect.

12. Fetal surgery, as a complex and highly specialised procedure, required careful selection of patients and comprehensive prenatal diagnosis to determine the severity of the fetal conditions and the potential benefits of each intervention. The effective collaboration among experts from different specialities, such as paediatric surgeons, anesthesiologists, and neonatologists, in managing the complicated conditions of both mother and fetus was a key success factor for fetal therapy. With the hard work and commitment of team members, FMT was the only team in Hong Kong acquired the specialised skills to perform fetoscopic endotracheal occlusion surgery for severe congenital diaphragmatic hernia, which was a complicated surgery for treating the defect in the diaphragm of the fetus leading to compression of the lungs by the up-going abdominal organs and thus the new born deaths due to respiratory failure, and the first survivor of this operation was born in 2019. In addition, FMT demonstrated vision and determination in performing innovative treatments for some critical or lethal fetal conditions. For instance, it had successfully treated a fetus suffering from large bronchopulmonary sequestration with radiofrequency ablation of the feeding artery without complication, which was a challenging fetal therapy reported only once in the literature where the neonate was presented with significant adverse outcomes. FMT had also performed investigational in-utero blood and stem-cell transfusion for two fetuses suffering from hemoglobin Barts disease, formerly labelled as a lethal condition, with good neonatal outcomes.

13. Acknowledging the importance of teamwork and knowledge transfer, FMT met weekly to formulate the best treatment for each case and provide a platform for passing on knowledge to junior doctors. Through the organisation of local and international conferences and workshops every year, FMT was able to drive the development of fetal therapy by sharing its experience on fetal therapy with midwives,

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obstetric trainees, specialists, and fetal medicine subspecialists and exchanging knowledge with relevant experts. Looking ahead, FMT would endeavour to overcome challenges that might arise and strive to provide patient-centric service to both parents and their fetuses. In anticipation of the increasing service demand and potential healthcare collaboration with other cities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, FMT would support the development of a specialised Fetal Medicine Centre in NTEC to provide timely and advanced fetal therapies to patients.

Date of Next Meeting

14. The next Open Board Meeting was scheduled for Thursday 21 September 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Hall, HA Building.

15. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Hospital Authority
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AL/NL/ML/JK/st
26 July 2023