

Thursday, 22 October 2015

HA formulates Action Plan to implement Review's Recommendations

The Hospital Authority (HA) Board discussed and endorsed at its Administrative & Operational Meeting today (22 October) the Action Plan for the recommendations of the Steering Committee on Review of HA (The Review). Over 100 concrete action items will be implemented gradually in the coming three years. The endorsed Action Plan was submitted to the Secretary for Food and Health.

The Steering Committee announced its Review Report in July this year with 10 recommendations on five priority areas in HA's operation. The HA Board had set up a task force to follow up and formulate implementation action plan for submission to the Government.

HA Chairman Professor John Leong Chi-yan said at the press conference today after the Meeting that in the past three months, the task force held four intensive meetings to consider and deliberate on detailed action plan proposals on each of the recommendations. He is confident that HA will implement and launch all the measures in the coming three years.

“With HA approaching its 25th anniversary, it is a good opportunity to consolidate our experience and to map out our future enhancements,” said Professor Leong.

“In formulating the Action Plan, we have adopted a strategic approach. Firstly, we have set specific targets for each of the actions to focus on individual issues and relevant details. Secondly, each recommendation has a set of corresponding actions, and every action plan contains a key strategy encompassing a specific target, and implementation roadmap and timeframe. With these specific plans and targets, we will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of the action plans and the required follow up.”

Professor Leong expressed heartfelt appreciation to the members of the task force and the staff who had contributed to the formulation of the Action Plan. He is also grateful to the guidance and leadership of the Secretary for Food & Health and the Food and Health Bureau. He said HA is committed to upholding high transparency and public accountability and will report to the public as well as the Secretary for Food & Health on the progress of implementation of the Action Plan regularly in the next three years.

In the Action Plan announced today, over 100 action items are outlined corresponding to the 10 recommendations on the five key areas in the Review Report. One of the main focuses of the Action Plan is the regrouping of Kowloon Central Cluster and Kowloon West Cluster. After the regrouping, the difference in population sizes of the two clusters would be narrowed down, as well as the situation of cross-clusters utilization would also improve. Additional topping up funding will also be given to three hospital clusters of Kowloon East, New Territories East and New Territories West to help address known deficiencies in their service capacity.

On resource management, a refined population-based resource allocation model will be developed, and the healthcare utilisation of local communities will be analysed to study cross-cluster flow patterns. Time trend analysis of cluster resource need and utilisation will also be performed.

For shortening of waiting time of Special Out-patients Clinics, HA would strengthen the service of Family Medicine Special Clinic to receive routine Orthopaedic specialist outpatient cases as Orthopaedics still remains one of the specialties with long waiting time. Another pressure area is Psychiatry waiting time, and HA will also enhance the service given to patients with Common Mental Disorder (CMD) like those with mild or stable symptoms of depression or anxiety by applying multi-disciplinary treatment model. HA will pilot a corporate-coordinated cross-cluster booking for suitable patient with CMD from other clusters to be attended at the CMD clinic of Kowloon West Cluster to shorten the waiting time of other patients.

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