

Thursday, 13 October 2022

Latest visiting arrangement for psychiatric settings in public hospitals

The Hospital Authority (HA) announced today (October 13) that following the implementation of refined special visiting arrangement at non-acute and acute wards of 38 public hospitals, the arrangement will be further extended to all psychiatric hospitals and wards from next Thursday (October 20) (details shown in the Appendix).

The HA spokesperson said, “We understand the wish of patients and their families for a more flexible visiting arrangement in public hospitals. After reviewing the overall epidemic situation and the implementation of the refined arrangement, the HA decided to further extend the arrangement to cover all psychiatric hospitals and wards to benefit more patients and families.”

The arrangement applies to psychiatric inpatients who have been transferred out of observation areas. For patients at lower risk of infection, including patients aged under 60, or patients aged 60 or above who have completed two doses or above of COVID-19 vaccination or one dose of COVID-19 vaccination with infection history of COVID-19, a one-hour visit will be arranged for them once a day. Subject to the situation in the ward, up to two registered visitors can enter the ward to visit the patient at the same time. Exchange of visitors is allowed with a maximum of three registered visitors.

For patients at higher risk of infection, such as immunocompromised patients, or patients aged 60 or above who have completed less than two doses of COVID-19 vaccination, two sessions of one-hour visits will be arranged each week. Subject to the situation in the ward, up to two registered visitors can enter the ward to visit the patient at the same time.

Hospital staff will contact patients' family members on a case-by-case basis and explain the visit arrangement and schedule the visit. Family members are not required to call the hospital for appointments.

All visitors must provide a nucleic acid test negative result obtained within 48 hours prior to the visit, and must meet the requirement of the Vaccine Pass, including having completed the required dosage of COVID-19 vaccination or being recovered persons of COVID-19 in the Government's records and holding the relevant vaccination record or record of recovered person. Visitors entering public hospitals are also required to observe the requirements of "LeaveHomeSafe" venue QR code and to strictly comply with the infection control measures, such as wearing surgical masks and temperature checking.

Visitors are required to fill in required information for visiting and read the statement found in the HA webpage (<https://vis.ha.org.hk>) or the mobile app 'HA Go' before the visit and show the QR code generated by the system to ward staff.

Public hospitals will also continue to facilitate compassionate visiting arrangements or video visiting as far as practicable and provide other feasible assistance to patients and their families. The HA will continue to monitor the latest development of the epidemic and to extend the refined arrangement to other wards and departments if the situation allows.

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Appendix

Newly added psychiatric hospitals/wards with the refined special visiting arrangement
(with effect from 20 October 2022)

Cluster	Hospital
Hong Kong East	Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (psychiatric wards)
Hong Kong West	Queen Mary Hospital (psychiatric wards)
Kowloon Central	Kowloon Hospital (psychiatric wards)
Kowloon East	United Christian Hospital (psychiatric wards)
Kowloon West	Kwai Chung Hospital
New Territories East	Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital (psychiatric wards)
	Shatin Hospital (psychiatric wards)
	Tai Po Hospital (psychiatric wards)
New Territories West	Castle Peak Hospital
	Tuen Mun Hospital (psychiatric wards)