

Friday, 31 October 2025

**HA announces application arrangements
under enhanced medical fee waiving mechanism**

The Hospital Authority (HA) announced today (October 31) the application arrangements under the enhanced medical fee waiving mechanism. Patients with appointments at public hospitals next year can submit advance applications for medical fee waivers in phases starting from November 2025. Additionally, the HA will implement special transitional arrangements from January to March next year to facilitate applications from persons in need. The HA has established dedicated teams to assist patients with fee waiver applications.

The HA spokesperson said, “As the Public Healthcare Fees and Charges Reform takes effect on January 1 next year, the HA will simultaneously introduce a series of strengthened protection measures, including enhancing the current medical fee waiver mechanism, which will increase the number of eligible beneficiaries from 300 000 to 1.4 million.”

To handle the additional fee waiver applications, the HA will implement special transitional arrangements during the transition period from January to March next year to ensure timely processing of applications:

1. Patients with appointments at public hospitals in January or February next year can submit required documentation two months in advance (i.e., November or December 2025). Applications will be pre-assessed, and eligible patients will receive medical fee waiver certificates before their follow-up appointments after the Reform takes effect on January 1; and
2. Patients requiring immediate or urgent treatment, who cannot afford medical expense at the public sector but cannot provide complete documentation for financial assessment, will be granted “conditional waivers” for full or partial medical fees. Eligible patients need only submit relevant documents within three months to receive official medical fee waiver certificates upon passing the assessment.

Meanwhile, patients currently holding medical fee waiver certificates (full or partial) can continue using them until expiry without reapplication. Patients with partial fee waiver certificates who qualify for full waivers under the enhanced mechanism can obtain full waivers by declaring no significant change in financial status at Medical Social Services Units (MSSU) three months before appointments or within three months after hospitalization, without requiring reassessment. The validity will be the same as the original certificate’s expiry date.

As an important part of the Public Healthcare Fees and Charges Reform, the medical fee waiver thresholds will be relaxed from January 1 next year. The income limit will be raised to 100% of the median monthly household income (MMDHI) (for households with two or more persons) or 150% of MMDHI (for single-person households), while the asset limit will be relaxed to that of the public rental housing application. Furthermore, the application procedures and coverage will be enhanced to facilitate public access, including relaxing the definition of “household” where family members without close financial ties to the applicant may be excluded from means testing; expanding the coverage of period medical fee waivers to include episodic Family Medicine Out-patient services; extending the maximum waiver validity period from 12 months to 18 months; and allowing patients to simply sign a declaration confirming unchanged financial status for reapplication within 18 months without resubmitting financial documents.

Patients can apply for medical fee waivers at MSSU in public hospitals or clinics, as well as Social Welfare Department’s Integrated Family Service Centres, Family and Child Protective Services Units, or other designated service units. Members of the public can also learn about application procedures through the HA’s mobile application “HA Go” by accessing the “Medical Fee Assistance Domain” and preliminarily assess their eligibility through the Means Test Calculator (applicable for applications from January 1, 2026) via “HA Go” or the HA website (ewsecal.ha.org.hk/calculator/index.html?lang=en).

The HA will utilise confirmed means test eligibility under social welfare and other government-subsidised schemes as reference for processing fee waiver applications, aiming to make arrangements and procedures as clear and simple as possible for the public. The HA will also gradually digitalise the assessment process, allowing applicants to check application status and upload documents through the HA Go mobile application by the end of this year, with the goal of enabling online applications by the third quarter of next year.

The spokesperson added, “The HA has established dedicated teams starting from November to ensure timely processing of medical fee waiver applications received by all public hospitals.”

Additionally, after the Public Healthcare Fees and Charges Reform takes effect in January next year, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals will continue its mission of providing free outpatient services to those in need. Eligible persons seeking outpatient services at Tung Wah Eastern Hospital, Tung Wah Hospital, and Kwong Wah Hospital will continue to be exempted from the following fees:

- Attendance and prescription fees at Family Medicine Clinics (excluding integrated clinics) (applicable to all Eligible Persons)
- Attendance fee at Specialist Outpatient Clinics (excluding integrated clinics and allied health clinics) (applicable only to Eligible Persons aged 75 or above, or aged 12 or below)

Furthermore, the HA has gazetted today the fee revisions for Non-eligible Persons, non-subsidised services at public hospitals, and remaining items of public healthcare services, which will take effect from January 1, 2026. Charges for Non-eligible Persons will be adjusted based on the 2023-24 service cost levels, while fees for non-subsidised services will be adjusted based on cost recovery principles, with reference to market rates. These services will not be subsidized by public funding. The HA will also adjust certain hospital administrative fees (such as certificates and medical reports, photocopying charges, and mortuary). The HA's new fee arrangements are listed in the Annex.

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Hospital Authority Fees & Charges for Public Hospital Services to Non-Eligible Persons are Revised from 1 January 2026

Service		Revised Fee
Inpatient Service	General Hospital: - General Ward - Intensive Care Ward/Unit - High Dependency Ward/Unit - Nursery	\$7,400 per day \$35,600 per day \$21,000 per day \$3,100 per day
	Psychiatric Hospital	\$3,100 per day
Outpatient Service	Accident & Emergency	\$2,100 per attendance*
	Specialist Clinic (including Integrated Clinic and Allied Health Clinic) - Attendance Fee - Drug Charge	\$850 per attendance \$90 per item#
	Family Medicine Clinic (including Integrated Clinic) - Attendance Fee - Drug Charge	\$500 per attendance \$40 per item#
	Injection or Dressing	\$250 per attendance
Community Service	Community Geriatric Assessment Team Service - Consultation - Drug Charge	\$850 per visit \$90 per item#
	Community Nursing Service (General)	\$800 per visit
	Community Allied Health Service	\$2,000 per visit
	Community Psychiatric Nursing Service	\$2,000 per visit
Day Hospital / Day Procedure	Psychiatric Day Hospital	\$1,800 per attendance
	Geriatric Day Hospital	\$2,700 per attendance
	Rehabilitation Day Hospital	\$1,900 per attendance
	Clinical Oncology Clinic	\$1,300 per attendance
	Ophthalmic Clinic	\$950 per attendance
	Renal Clinic - Chronic Haemodialysis - Acute Haemodialysis	\$3,000 per attendance \$6,000 per attendance
	Day Procedure and Treatment in Ambulatory Facility	\$7,400 per attendance
Obstetrics Package Charge	- Booked - Non-booked	\$74,000 per package \$130,000 per package
Pathology Service (applicable for Specialist Clinic and Family Medicine Clinic)	- Basic - Intermediate - Advanced	\$400 per item \$800 per item \$16,100 per item
Non-urgent Radiology Service	- Basic - Intermediate - Advanced	\$400 per item \$1,600 per item \$4,700 per item

* Patients who have paid attendance fee but leave before medical consultation at an Accident & Emergency Department (A&E) can apply for a refund of \$1,850 within 24 hours after A&E registration.

4 weeks as chargeable unit of each drug item (except self-financed drugs).

Note: (1) If patients request special meals, the revised fees are as follows:

- Inpatient Service - Special Asian Diet \$200 per day; European Diet \$400 per day
- Day hospital - Special Asian Diet \$160 per day; European Diet \$320 per day

(2) A daily maintenance fee of \$1,200 will apply for persons accompanying a patient and occupying a bed.

Non-Eligible Persons are required to pay deposit on admission for inpatient services. Please contact Admission Office or Shroff Office for details of the deposit requirement.

Hospital Authority Fees & Charges for Major Non-subsidised Services (Private Case) of Public Hospitals are Revised from 1 January 2026

Service		Revised Fee
Inpatient Service	Acute Hospitals – Private Ward*	
	- 1st Class	\$6,960 per day
	- 2nd Class	\$4,640 per day
	Other Hospitals – Private Ward*	
	- 1st Class	\$5,810 per day
	- 2nd Class	\$3,870 per day
	Intensive Care Ward/Unit*	\$22,450 per day
	High Dependency Ward/Unit*	\$12,650 per day
	Nursery*	\$2,630 per day
	Medical Attendance / Consultation	\$680 - \$2,780 per visit per specialty
Outpatient Service	Outpatient Consultation#	
	- Initial Consultation	\$1,090 - \$2,580 per attendance
	- Follow Up Consultation	\$950 - \$2,350 per attendance
	Nursing Procedures (e.g. Dressing or Injection)	\$450 per attendance

Private inpatients are required to pay deposit on admission. Please contact Admission Office or Shroff Office for details of the deposit requirement.

* Inpatient maintenance fee covers general nursing, core pathology investigations, catering and domestic services. Doctor fees and other services are charged separately.

Outpatient consultation fee does not include the supply of medicines, prostheses, diagnostic services or therapeutic treatments.

Note: In addition to the above major services, revised fees for other itemised services such as pathology services, radiology services, diagnostic / therapeutic procedures, operations, rehabilitation and outreach services etc., will be specified in the Gazette.

Hospital Authority Fees & Charges for Public Hospital Services to Eligible Persons are Revised from 1 January 2026

Service		Revised Fee
Inpatient Service	Infirmery bed in Cheshire Home	\$3,500 per month
	Special accommodation wards	\$4,400 per day

Note:

1. Patients falling into the following categories are eligible for the rates of charges applicable to "Eligible Persons":
 - holders of Hong Kong Identity Card issued under the Registration of Persons Ordinance (Chapter 177), except those who obtained their Hong Kong Identity Card by virtue of a previous permission to land or remain in Hong Kong granted to them and such permission has expired or ceased to be valid;
 - children who are Hong Kong residents and under 11 years of age; or
 - other persons approved by the Chief Executive of the Hospital Authority.
2. If patients request special meals, the revised fees are as follows:
 - Inpatient Service - Special Asian Diet \$200 per day; European Diet \$400 per day
 - Day hospital - Special Asian Diet \$160 per day; European Diet \$320 per day
3. The charges for pathology services are also applicable to Family Medicine Clinics (including Integrated Clinics).
4. The revised fees for major Eligible Persons items were gazetted on 25 April 2025. The above items are the remaining services applicable to Eligible Persons.

Hospital Authority Administrative Fees for Public Hospitals are Revised from 1 January 2026

Service		Revised Fee
Copy of personal data under Data Access Request under Personal Data (Privacy Ordinance)	Processing fee (include 10 pages and postage)	\$100 per request
	Photocopying charge per page (after 10 pages)	\$1.5 per page
	Disc or film	\$300 per disc/film
Certificates and medical reports	Certificate & medical report (maximum cap at 4 reports)	\$1,100 per report
	Post-mortem report	\$2,300 per report
	Certificate for physical examination for child care centre, nursery or special educational school	\$1,100 per certificate
	Medical assessment (e.g. disability assessment)	\$1,400 per assessment
Issuance of a duplicate record, certified copy of a record or information extracted from record or database held by HA		\$300 per record
Medication delivery services		\$65 per prescription
Self-financed drugs handling charge (per drug item dispensed)		\$130 per item
Mortuary charge (start from the day of storage)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No charge (for first 3 days) - \$100 per day (from Day 4) - \$200 per day (from Day 18) - \$550 per day (from Day 34)