

**The Seventh Meeting of the Medical Sub-committee on
the Community Care Fund
9 May 2012**

Summary of Discussion

The Medical Sub-committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its seventh meeting on 9 May 2012. A summary of discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the implementation progress of the “First phase programme of the CCF Medical assistance programmes” (the First phase programme). As at 31 March 2012, the Hospital Authority (HA) had approved a total of 202 applications and the total amount of subsidy disbursed was \$15.9 million.
2. The Sub-committee endorsed the inclusion of three specified self-financed cancer drugs under the First phase programme. The number of drugs covered by the First phase programme hence increased from six to nine.
3. Members noted the implementation progress of the “Second phase programme of the CCF Medical assistance programmes” (the Second phase programme). As at the end of March 2012, the HA had approved a total of 162 applications and the total amount of subsidy disbursed was about \$3.72 million.
4. Members noted that the HA was planning to submit its recommendations of the 2012-13 review on the coverage of subsidised drugs under the Samaritan Fund (SF). Among the recommendations, the proposed relaxation of the financial assessment criteria would affect the number of beneficiaries of the Second phase programme.
5. Members noted the preparation progress of the “Elderly dental assistance programme”. The Hong Kong Dental Association would continue to strengthen the publicity work and step up the recruitment to encourage more private dentists and non-governmental organisations running dental clinics to participate in the programme. It was also reported that the programme would be introduced in the third quarter of 2012 as scheduled.
6. Members noted that the HA had conducted an evaluation on the effectiveness of the Second phase programme. The Sub-committee supported HA’s

proposal of incorporating the Second phase programme into the regular mechanism of the SF.

7. In addition, the Sub-committee had preliminary discussion on the following issues proposed by some of the Members:

- To consider continually adding new cancer drugs to First phase programme, and expand the scope of the First phase programme by adding non-cancer drugs.
- To consider studying the feasibility of further lowering the patients' contribution ratio on drug costs after the Second phase programme had been incorporated into the regular mechanism of the SF.
- To study whether to subsidise elders to conduct basic body check-ups.
- To study whether to provide financial assistance to low-income persons requiring emergency treatment.

8. In respect of the financial burden arising from medical equipment, consumables and caring services faced by severely disabled persons, the Social Welfare Department and the HA had been working on how to enhance the relevant support services by taking a case management approach. Details of the initiative were being studied.