

**The Eighth Meeting of the Medical Sub-committee on  
the Community Care Fund  
30 October 2012**

**Summary of Discussion**

The Medical Sub-committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its eighth meeting on 30 October 2012. A summary of discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the progress of implementing the First Phase Programme of the CCF Medical Assistance Programmes. As at the end of September 2012, the Hospital Authority (HA) had approved a total of 538 applications and the total amount of subsidy disbursed was \$49.24 million.
2. Members noted the progress of implementing the Second Phase Programme of the CCF Medical Assistance Programmes. As at the end of August 2012, the HA had approved a total of 281 applications and the total amount of subsidy disbursed was about \$4.4 million. The Second Phase Programme had ceased operation after being incorporated into the regular assistance programme with effect from September 2012.
3. Members noted the progress of the “Elderly Dental Assistance Programme”. As at 30 October, a total of 246 dentists and 45 dental clinics operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) enrolled to the programme, and over 50 elders had been referred by NGOs to receive dental services. The Hong Kong Dental Association would continue to strengthen the enrolment and publicity, so as to recruit more dentists practising at public housing estates to participate in the programme. Moreover, efforts would be made to encourage non-participating NGOs to participate as soon as possible to assist in providing referral/escorting services.
4. Members had a discussion on whether there was room to expand the scope of beneficiaries under the “Elderly Dental Assistance Programme”, and agreed to review the programme according to actual experience, including dentists’ views, after implementing the programme for six to nine months.

5. In respect of the financial burden arising from medical equipment, consumables and caring service faced by severely disabled persons, the Social Welfare Department and HA had been working on details of how to use a case management approach to provide support service for them. The CCF were considering developing short-term initiatives (e.g. provision of subsidy for renting medical equipment) to render immediate support for them.
6. Members suggested that the CCF could consider:
  - providing support for pre-school children with special education needs, including those who had been studying in mainstream kindergartens and were assessed to have no need for pre-school rehabilitation service but still in need of support.
  - providing assistance for children who had speech impairment and undergone cochlear implant surgery, for example, providing them with subsidy for the maintenance cost of their speech processing equipment.