

**The Fourth Meeting of the Medical Sub-committee
on the Community Care Fund
6 October 2011**

Summary of Discussion

The Medical Sub-committee on the Community Care Fund (CCF) held its fourth meeting on 6 October 2011. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

1. Members noted the progress of the First Phase Programme of the Medical Assistance Programmes implemented by the Hospital Authority (HA) and endorsed the proposed case review mechanism. The HA would submit the proposed implementation details of the Second Phase Programme of the Medical Assistance Programmes at the next meeting.
2. Regarding the proposed programme to provide subsidy on dental services (including dentures) for the elders, Members noted the progress report of the Task Group, including setting priority of target beneficiaries and detailed implementation arrangements.
3. Members deliberated on the priority of target beneficiaries for the programme. Noting that criteria for setting priority target beneficiaries had to be developed given the large and growing elderly population, Members proposed to roll out the assistance programme first so as to better understand the aspirations and needs of the elders, as well as to learn from the experience and collect more data. Members supported the following proposals of the Task Group:
 - (1) To accord priority to elders who were users of the “Integrated Home Care Services” and the “Enhanced Home and Community Care Services” subvented by the Social Welfare Department, but were not recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme.

- (2) To provide subsidy on dentures and related necessary dental treatment. The ceiling of subsidy for the proposed programme would be set with reference to the dental grant ceiling for dentures under the CSSA Scheme.
 - (3) To invite the Hong Kong Dental Association to assist in implementing the programme and provide guidelines on dentures.
- 4. Members noted that currently there were a total of 60 services teams from 24 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) providing the “Integrated Home Care Services” to about 19 000 elders of which about 1 000 were assessed as frail with moderate level of impairment. The service teams mainly render personal care service, meal delivery service and accompanying service for medical consultation. Moreover, 14 NGOs were providing the “Enhanced Home and Community Care Services” to about 3 400 elders assessed as frail with moderate or severe levels of impairment.
- 5. Members agreed that the Task Group could make preliminary discussion on the feasibility of the mode of operation (including administrative cost) with NGOs before further formulating the proposal and implementation details for consideration by Members at the next meeting.
- 6. Members had preliminary discussion on assistance programmes that could be considered for implementation in the next phase, including:
 - (1) subsidy on dental services for the mentally disabled persons; and
 - (2) expansion of the scope of coverage to non-drug items subsidised by the Samaritan Fund and provision of subsidy for chronically ill and severely disabled persons to rent ventilators or other rehabilitation and medical appliances and consumable items.