An Overview of Primary Care Development in Hong Kong

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Structure of Presentation

- Hong Kong’s Healthcare System
- Primary Care Development in Hong Kong
- Government’s Initiatives on Primary Care Development
- The Way Forward
Hong Kong’s Healthcare System
Hong Kong – The Facts

- Total Area = 1104 km²
- 2010 End-year Population*
  - Total = 7.10 million
    - Male = 3.32 million (46.7%)
    - Female = 3.78 million (53.3%)
- Health Indices (2010)*
  - Life Expectancies at Birth
    - Male = 80.0 years
    - Female = 85.9 years
  - Infant Mortality Rate# = 1.7 per 1000 registered live births

* Provisional figures
# 2009 figures
Ageing Population

Population projection from 2009 to 2039

- Total population:
  from 7.00 million in mid-2009 to 8.89 million in mid-2039

- Aged >= 65 years:
  from 12.7% (0.89 million) in 2009 to 29.2% (2.49 million) in 2039

- Aged >= 80 years:
  from 3.4% (0.24 million) in 2009 to 10.2% (0.87 million) in 2039
Leading Causes of Death (2009)

1. Cancers (31%)
2. Heart Diseases (16%)
3. Pneumonia (13%)
4. Cerebrovascular Diseases (8.5%)
5. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases (4.5%)
Organisation Chart of the Government

- CSB: Civil Service Bureau
- CMAB: Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau
- EDB: Education Bureau
- ENB: Environment Bureau
- FHB: Food & Health Bureau
- HAB: Home Affairs Bureau
- LWB: Labour & Welfare Bureau
- SB: Security Bureau
- THB: Transport & Housing Bureau
- CEDB: Commerce & Economic Development Bureau
- DEVB: Development Bureau
- FSTB: Financial Services & the Treasury Bureau

SECRETARY FOR JUSTICE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Healthcare Policy

“No one should be denied adequate healthcare through lack of means”
Public Sector (28%)
- Clinics under DH (4%)
- Clinics under HA (24%)

Private Sector (72%)
- Western medicine practitioners (56%)
- Chinese medicine practitioners (15%)
- Others (1%)

**Ambulatory Care** (Consultations):
- Public Sector (28%)
  - Clinics under DH (4%)
  - Clinics under HA (24%)
- Private Sector (72%)
  - Western medicine practitioners (56%)
  - Chinese medicine practitioners (15%)
  - Others (1%)

**Hospital Care** (Hospital Admissions):
- Public Sector (78%)
  - 41 hospitals/institutions under HA
  - 27,117 beds# (88%)
- Private Sector (22%)
  - 13 private hospitals
  - 3,712 beds# (12%)

*Thematic Household Survey 2009-2010, Census & Statistics Department
# End of 2009 figures
Need to Enhance Primary Care

- Healthcare needs of rapidly growing number of older people presents **challenges** especially in the following areas:
  - Supporting the elderly to remain healthy and active in the community
  - Managing chronic diseases over longer periods
  - A person aged $\geq 65$ years uses 6 times more in-patient care than a person aged $< 65$ years (in terms of public hospital bed-days)

- **A stronger primary care system** is needed, emphasising:
  - Re-orientation towards more preventive and comprehensive community-based care
  - Continuity of care and cross-sectoral collaboration
Primary Care Development in Hong Kong
Primary Care

- First point of contact for individuals and families in a continuing healthcare process

- A good primary care system
  - provides the public with access to better care which is comprehensive, holistic, co-ordinated, and as close as possible to where people live and work
  - provides preventive care as well as quality management of diseases to everyone which is important for promoting health of the population
Primary Care Development -
Global Perspective

- “Declaration of Alma Ata” made at the International Conference on Primary Health Care in 1978 – primary care is the key to “Health for All”
- World Health Report 2008: “Primary Health Care: Now More Than Ever” – reaffirms the need to enhance primary care
- “Regional Strategy on Health Systems Strengthening Based on the Values of Primary Health Care” endorsed by the Regional Committee of the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific in 2010 – a whole-of-system approach based on the values of primary health is the most effective and sustainable way of strengthening health systems
Primary Care Development – Local Perspective

Since 1990, the Government has taken steps to improve primary care in the public system -

- Women Health Service in 1994
- Student Health Service in 1995
- Elderly Health Service in 1998
- The Centre for Health Protection was established in 2004
- School Dental Care Service and Oral Health Education Unit
- Transfer of GOPCs from DH to HA in 2003
- HA has expanded its Community Nursing Service
- HA has been working with many NGOs to enhance care of the elderly and chronic disease patients living in the community
- 14 public Chinese medicine out-patient clinics that involve tripartite collaboration among HA, NGOs and local universities have been set up since 2003
- Healthy City Projects are in place in all 18 Districts
Discussion paper “Building a Healthy Tomorrow” in 2005 – reviewed service delivery model for the healthcare system and set out the vision and ways to build up a robust primary care system in Hong Kong

Healthcare Reform Consultation Document “Your Health, Your Life” in 2008 – put forward a comprehensive package of healthcare reform proposals to -

- Enhance primary care
- Promote public-private partnership in healthcare
- Develop electronic health record sharing
- Strengthen public healthcare safety net
- Reform healthcare financing arrangements
Working Group on Primary Care

- Reconvened in October 2008 under the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee

- Chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health

- Advise on strategic directions for the development of primary care in Hong Kong
Establishment of Task Forces

Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee

Working Group on Primary Care

- Task Force on Conceptual Model and Preventive Protocols
- Task Force on Primary Care Directory
- Task Force on Primary Care Delivery Models
- Task Force on Primary Dental Care and Oral Health
Primary Care Development in Hong Kong - Strategy Document

- Web-based version published in December 2010

- Highlighting why good primary care will benefit us all, and how it will help us address the major challenges of preventing and providing on-going treatment for the modern day epidemic of chronic diseases

- Setting out the major strategies and pathways of action which will help us deliver high quality primary care in Hong Kong
Vision of the Future Primary Care System

- Every citizen has access to a primary care doctor as their long-term health partner
- Better availability of comprehensive, continuing and co-ordinated care
- Emphasis on preventing diseases and their deterioration by care provided by multi-disciplinary teams
- Every person is supported in their efforts to improve and take care of their own health
- Care provided is of high quality and evidence-based, and is provided by well trained professionals working for patients in the context of family and community
Key Strategies to Strengthen Primary Care in Hong Kong

- Develop comprehensive care by multi-disciplinary teams
- Improve continuity of care of individuals
- Improve co-ordination of care among healthcare professionals across different sectors
- Strengthen preventive approach to tackle major disease burden
- Enhance inter-sectoral collaboration to improve the availability of quality care, especially care for chronic disease patients
- Emphasise person-centred care and patient empowerment
- Support professional development and quality improvement
- Strengthen organisational and infrastructural support for the changes
Establishment of the Primary Care Office

- Set up under the Department of Health in September 2010 to
  - Support and co-ordinate the development of primary care in Hong Kong
  - Implement the primary care development strategies and actions
  - Co-ordinate actions among the Department of Health, the Hospital Authority, the private healthcare sector, NGOs and other healthcare providers
Government’s Initiatives on Primary Care Development
Policy Agenda 2010-11 – Primary Care Initiatives

Primary Care Development Strategy Document

Primary Care Directory

Conceptual Models on Primary Care and Reference Frameworks

Primary Care Campaign

Community Health Centres

Government Primary Care Initiatives:
• Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme
• Elderly Vaccination Subsidy Scheme
• Elderly Health Care Voucher Pilot Scheme
• HA Pilot Projects
Primary Care Campaign

- Two-year programme to be launched in March 2011
- Target:
  - Healthcare professionals – aims to engage them and solicit their support in the promotion of primary care
  - General public – aims to
    - raise public awareness of the benefits of having a family doctor as the first point of contact in the healthcare system in order to have continuing, co-ordinated and person-centred care
    - reinforce actions of the public to always consult their family doctors as the first point of contact for healthcare services
    - encourage the public to improve their own health and that of their family members through establishing partnership with their family doctors and adopting a preventive approach in improving health
Conceptual Models on Primary Care and Reference Frameworks

- Developed by the Task Force on Conceptual Model and Prevention Protocols
- Web-based version of the reference frameworks for diabetes and hypertension available in January 2011
- Providing common reference to healthcare professionals for the provision of continuing, comprehensive and evidence-based care in the community, empower patients and their carers, and raise public awareness of the importance of preventing and properly managing chronic diseases
- Conceptual models and reference frameworks for other major diseases or age-specific groups (e.g. children and elderly) to be developed
Primary Care Directory

- **Objectives:**
  - To provide an easily accessible electronic database containing practice-based information of primary care practitioners
  - To foster partnership between individual and primary care practitioners as health co-ordinators
  - To facilitate co-ordination among different primary care providers functioning as multi-disciplinary teams

- **Approaches:**
  - Multi-disciplinary team-based approach – sub-directories for different healthcare professional providing primary care
  - Phased development – establish the sub-directories of doctors and dentists first, and develop sub-directories of other professionals in phases
Primary Care Directory

- **Information and structure:**
  - Including personal and practised-based information of individual doctors and dentists
  - Web-based electronic version
  - Link to electronic platforms for various Government initiatives on primary care

- **Entry requirements:**
  - Inclusive approach at initial stage - registered doctors/dentists who commit themselves to the provision of directly accessible, comprehensive, continuing, and co-ordinated person-centred primary care services are eligible

- **Maintenance requirements:**
  - Certification of CME/CPD will be required to uphold quality of services
Primary Care Service Delivery Models

- Planning CHC pilot projects that aim to foster the provision of more comprehensive one-stop primary care services
- Exploring Community Health Centre (CHC)-type models with healthcare professionals and providers from the public sector, private sector, non-governmental organisations and universities to address the needs of the local community:
  - Different services co-located in the same building or connected in virtual networks
  - Different models of participation and partnership among service providers
  - Different combinations of services and healthcare professionals
Community Health Centres/ CHC-like Networks
- Improve access to a wider range of health & other services
- Extended, convenient hours of services
- Coordinated team of providers with medical & other inputs
- Facilitate cross-sector collaboration
The Way Forward
Need for Further Development

- How can we strengthen the provision of better co-ordinated, comprehensive and continuing primary care?
- How can we take a more proactive approach in tackling chronic diseases?
- What do we need to do to further enhance the availability of comprehensive care for chronic diseases?
- How can we promote person-centred care and patient empowerment?
- How can we strengthen the development of primary care workforce?
Implementation and Evaluation

- A step-by-step and consensus building approach to reform the primary care system
- A virtuous cycle of pilot, evaluation and adjustments for the continuous development and implementation of specific initiatives and pilot projects
- Collaborations from the government, public and private health sector, NGOs, other primary care providers and related social service agencies, patients groups and other stakeholders to enhance primary care development
Thank You !