

**Question on consultation service of general out-patient clinics on
Sundays and Public Holidays
(Paper CACRC 35/2016)**

Written reply from the Hospital Authority

The service of the Hospital Authority (HA)'s General Out-Patient Clinics (GOPCs) is primarily targeted at the elders, low-income individuals, and patients with chronic diseases. Patients under the care of GOPCs comprise two major categories: chronic disease patients with stable conditions, such as patients with diabetes mellitus or hypertension, and episodic disease patients with relatively mild symptoms, such as those suffering from influenza, colds, gastroenteritis, etc. Since GOPCs are not set up for emergency services. Therefore, patients with serious and acute symptoms are advised to attend Accident & Emergency Department, so as to receive comprehensive and appropriate care and support under appropriate manpower and facilities.

Currently, there are seven HA GOPCs in Islands District, namely Mui Wo General Out-patient Clinic, North Lamma General Out-patient Clinic, North Lantau Community Health Centre, Peng Chau General Out-patient Clinic, Sok Kwu Wan General Out-patient Clinic, St. John Hospital General Out-patient Department and Tai O Jockey Club General Out-patient Clinic, among which evening clinics are provided in North Lantau Community Health Centre. Besides, there are four clinics (Mui Wo General Out-patient Clinic, North Lamma General Out-patient Clinic, Peng Chau General Out-patient Clinic and Tai O Jockey Club General Out-patient Clinic) providing 24-hour first aid post service.

HA always concerns about the primary health care service needs of the target patients, and has been closely monitoring and reviewing the general out-patient services. Currently, the demand for general out-patient services varies across districts. While the service utilization of districts in urban areas is constantly high, that of islands remains relatively low. We understand that there is a high demand for general out-patient services in the community, which at times our service provision is unable to meet the demand. However, since doctor manpower is still in extreme shortage, HA currently has no plan to expand the non-office hours out-patient services in the islands.

In planning for the provision of public medical services, we take into account numerous factors, including the projected service demand arising from population growth and demographic changes, the growth rate of individual services, as well as the possible changes in service delivery model, etc. We would continue to monitor the service need and operation to ensure that the general out-patient services could be appropriately provided to our target patients. Meanwhile, HA would continue to recruit manpower proactively with the aim to enhance the service capacity of GOPCs.

Bilingual press releases about clinic service during public holidays are uploaded to the HA website for reference by member of public.

Chinese version:

http://www.ha.org.hk/visitor/ha_visitor_index.asp?Content_ID=643&Lang=CHIB5&Dimension=100&Parent_ID=10000

English version:

http://www.ha.org.hk/visitor/ha_visitor_index.asp?Content_ID=643&Lang=ENG&Dimension=100&Parent_ID=10000

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