

Concern over the setting up of District Health Centre, Integrated Community Centre for Mental Wellness, community space and reading room in the Central and Western District

Reply from the Food and Health Bureau:

Services provided by District Health Centre

Background

The objective of setting up the DHC is to encourage the people establishing a healthy life style for disease prevention and early identification health problem, properly managing chronic diseases, and/ or enhancing the self-care capability through the community rehabilitation programme. With the K&TDHC as a blueprint, the Government will subsidize the local people receiving the primary healthcare service in the community through paying the DHC Operator and the network service providers.

The service target of the District Health Centre (DHCT) are the individuals residing in the corresponding district who are the holder of the Hong Kong Identity Card, agree to enroll in the electronic Health Record Sharing System (eHRSS), and allow the service providers to make reference to their health record through the eHRSS are eligible to join the DHC scheme. Eligible clients may register as member and joining the scheme through direct access to DHC, referral by DHC network service providers and community service partners, or through DHC outreaching activities.

The DHC Scheme

The DHC provides services on primary, secondary and tertiary prevention. The primary prevention promotes health education focusing on lifestyle change through different methods and channels, including advice on smoke cessation, exercise classes, fall prevention training, healthy diet talks and mental wellness, etc., so as to enhance individual's self-health management and disease prevention. The service target are the general public and those without illness requiring health improvement. The DHC will also provide health and medication consultation / counselling services to help the public staying healthy.

The secondary prevention is to facilitate early identification of individuals with risk of chronic diseases through health risk factors assessment. The health risk factors assessment will review the client's lifestyle, e.g. family condition, living environment, exercise, smoking and alcohol drinking habit, so as to improve the individual's health condition fundamentally. Clients identified with target chronic diseases (diabetes mellitus and hypertension) through the health risk factors assessments will be referred to a DHC network doctor for further screening and diagnosis.

The service target of tertiary prevention is chronic disease patients. Through proper treatment and monitoring, it is aimed to prevent patients' complication and avoidable hospital admission. Patients with hypertension, diabetes mellitus or musculoskeletal problems referred by DHC network doctors can join the Government's protocol driven service programme. The DHC also provides community rehabilitation programme to patients with stroke, hip fracture and post-acute myocardial infarction.

Furthermore, the DHC also serves as the service coordinator and service hub, understanding and connecting the primary healthcare services (include mental health) provided by public, private and non-governmental organisations in the community, providing information of healthcare service and community resources, connecting different service providers and providing professional guidance/referral as necessary to safeguard the overall public health status of the community.

The DHC Core team and Network Service Providers

The staffing of the DHC core team includes:

Executive Director
Chief Care Coordinator
Care Coordinators
Nurses
Physiotherapists
Occupational Therapists
Pharmacist
Social Workers
Dietitian
Administrative Staff

Furthermore, to establish a comprehensive and in place service network, we will require the DHC operator to recruit the following professionals as Network Service Providers (NSPs):

Medical Doctor
Chinese Medicine Practitioner
Physiotherapist
Occupational Therapist
Dietitian
Podiatrist
Speech Therapist

Similarly, there will be minimum no. of NSP required in each categories.

The government will expedite the progress of setting up 18 DHCs. Besides the Kwai Tsing District Health Centre, which is already in service, DHCs in 6 more districts, namely Yuen Long, Sham Shui Po, Wong Tai Sin, Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun and Southern District, are expected to be set up by June 2022. The smaller scale “DHC Express” will be established in the remaining 11 districts, including Central & Western District, in the interim pending the establishment of DHCs. The “DHC Express” will be funded by the Government and operated the Non-governmental organisation (NGO). The “DHC Express” will provide essential primary healthcare services including health promotion, health assessment and chronic disease management to build a solid foundation for a long term district based primary healthcare system. The DHC Express targets to commence service in 2021 and the progress will be reported to the District Council in due course.

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C&WDC Secretariat
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