

Question on Sok Kwu Wan Clinic on Lamma Island
(Paper IDC 34/2013)

Written Reply for Hospital Authority

Services of general out-patient clinics (GOPCs) provided by HA are primarily targeted at the low-income individuals, elders and patients with chronic diseases. Patients under the care of HA's GOPCs comprise broadly chronic disease patients with stable medical conditions (such as patients with diabetes mellitus or hypertension) and episodic disease patients with relatively mild symptoms (such as those suffering from influenza, cold, or gastroenteritis).

HKEC has all along been monitoring the service needs of the GOPCs under the Cluster. Over the years, the services utilization of GOPCs on Lamma Island has remained low as compared with other GOPCS. There are currently two GOPCS on Lamma Island, namely the North Lamma (NL) GOPC and the Sok Kwu Wan (SKW) GOPC. SKW GOPC opens during 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm from Mondays to Fridays, and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. Doctor consultation is provided at SKW GOPC every Monday and Friday while a registered nurse will be on duty for the rest of the service hour. Apart from the two GOPCS mentioned, residents on Sok Kwu Wan make appointment at the Aberdeen Jockey Club GOPC nearby, which is easily accessible by Kaito ferries. GOP services in the evening hour from 6pm to 10pm from Mondays to Fridays are also available at the Aberdeen GOPC.

GOPCS are equipped to provide primary care services. For emergency cases during service hours, nurse on duty in SKW GOPC will consult doctors of the Accident and Emergency Department (AED) of the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital according to the prevailing mechanism. Medical advice and appropriate care would be provided to the patient according to doctor's instruction. If necessary, patients will be transported to AED of hospitals in urban areas for further management. This is to ensure that patients suffering from critical conditions would receive proper care provided by appropriate expertise and manpower, suitable facilities and supporting services in a hospital setting.

When residents in Sok Kwu Wan require service beyond the service hours of the GOPC, assistance would be delivered by the Hong Kong Police Force, the Fire Services Department and the Government Flying Service for any kind of emergencies. With the professional knowledge of first aid and the well-established communication channels, the above-mentioned departments would coordinate to render necessary assistance to residents. Patients requiring hospital care will be transported to hospitals in urban areas according to the “Emergency Casualty Evacuation” Guideline.

Thank you for Islands District Council members’ concern about the provision of GOP service in Sok Kwu Wan. HA will continue monitoring the needs of residents on Sok Kwu Wan and service utilization of GOPCs in order to deliver services that can best meet the needs of the community.

Islands District Council Secretariat

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