Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS) 2018/19

Guidelines for Organisers to Arrange Vaccination Activity at Non-Clinic Settings (updated on 19 Sep 2018)

Introduction

Institutions and community groups planning to organise vaccination activities at non-clinics settings should note that vaccination is a medical procedure. The organiser and the doctor in-charge of the arrangement (the doctor) must give due consideration to safety and liability issues. In addition, organisers should stay clear of associating with any improper financial (or advantage) transactions with the doctor and participants of the activity.

Outreach vaccination activities under the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS)

In 2018/19, two types of outreach vaccination activities and subsidy levels provided under VSS are as follows:

vaccination at Non-clinic Settings – are seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) and/ or pneumococcal vaccination to be provided for eligible groups at non-clinic settings, for example, elderly centres, community halls, institutions serving persons with intellectual disabilities, schools, etc. The subsidy level will be increased to HK\$210 per dose of SIV in 2018/19. The subsidy level for 23-valent pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (23vPPV) will be increased to HK\$250 per dose; and that for 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) will remain at HK\$730 per dose.

(ii) Enhanced VSS Outreach Vaccinations — are seasonal influenza vaccination to be provided free-of-charge to students of primary schools, primary sections of special schools, kindergartens, kindergarten-cum-child care centres and child care centres that are not participating in the School Outreach Vaccination Pilot Programme in 2018/19. The Government will pay the doctor a higher subsidy of HK\$250 per dose of SIV and a new subsidy of HK\$800 for clinical waste disposal per vaccination session. The doctor cannot charge the school or the parents any fees.

The following paragraphs briefly describe the major steps to organise outreach vaccination activity under VSS.

(I) Planning Phase

(1) Select a doctor to be in-charge of the outreach vaccination activity

The organiser can select any private doctor for the vaccination activity.

However, if the vaccine recipients wish to use Government subsidy, the organiser must select a private doctor who has enrolled to VSS and will provide outreach vaccination service at non-clinic settings:

For VSS vaccination at non-clinic setting, information of enrolled doctors are available at the Centre for Health Protection (CHP) website (http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/17980.html).

For Enhanced VSS Outreach Programme, schools can visit CHP website https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/doctors_schools_eng.pdf for the list of doctors who have joined the enhanced programme.

Moreover, the organiser can contact Vaccination Office at 2125 2125 for information.

(2) Consider the service fees charged by the doctor and whether to conduct tendering or quotation

- (i) If no fees are charged by the doctor, organisers/ schools can consider not to go through tendering or quotation process. However, selection of enrolled VSS doctors should be fair and transparent. Selection criteria should be open and properly documented. Members responsible for selection should also declare any conflict of interest.
- (ii) If tendering is required, Vaccination Office has prepared a "<u>Reference Information on the Service Requirements for Arrangement of Vaccination Activity at Non-Clinic Settings"</u> in **Appendix 1 and 1(A)**.

(Note:

Schools that participate in the **Enhanced VSS Outreach Vaccination** should note that since the participating doctor **cannot charge** extra service fees, **no tendering/ quotation is required** when choosing the doctor.)

(3) Liaise with the doctor about the terms of service and vaccination arrangement

Read carefully the terms of services provided by the doctor, including the doctor's liability, service fees, arrangements for those absent for vaccination and 2^{nd} dose vaccination for children.

(Note:

- children under the age of 9 who have never received any seasonal influenza vaccination before need to receive 2 doses, at least 4 weeks apart. If required, the organiser should liaise with the doctor on arrangement for vaccination of 2nd dose.
- Doctors who participate in the **Enhanced VSS Outreach Vaccination** are required to provide both the first and second doses of seasonal influenza vaccine at the school for eligible students)
- Liaise with the doctor to arrange the **venue and dates of the first and second dose vaccination.**

Once confirmed, remind the doctor to submit the completed <u>Notification on Vaccination Activity at Non-Clinic Settings form</u> to the Department of Health at least two weeks prior to the vaccination activity. Vaccination Office will notify Environmental Protection Department (EPD) about the time and venue of vaccination activity at non-clinic setting using this form. One notification form will be needed for each outreach vaccination activity.

(4) Follow up with the doctor on preparation

Make sure the doctor will provide the following services on the day of vaccination:

- Provide **safe and quality** vaccination service to vaccine recipients.
- The doctor should (a) exercise effective supervision over the trained personnel who cover his duty; and (b) retain personal responsibility for the treatment of the patients.
- The doctor should give personal supervision to trained personnel or arrange qualified health care professionals to administer the vaccinations.
- Participating doctors are highly preferred to be present at the vaccination venue and should be personally and physically reachable in case of emergency.
- Arrange sufficient number of qualified / trained healthcare personnel
 to provide service and medical support. The personnel should be
 trained in emergency management of severe adverse reactions and should
 prepare the equipment.
- Arrange health care professionals to assess the recipients for suitability to receive vaccination.
- The service provider needs to ensure that the Consent To Use Vaccination Subsidy Forms are duly completed and signed and verify the vaccine recipient's eligibility for subsidy and check vaccination records at the eHealth System (Subsidies) to prevent duplicated dose.
- For 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccination for the elderly, the doctor should pre-arrange health assessments to confirm whether the elderly has high-risk conditions, and should complete and sign on relevant parts of the "Consent To Use Vaccination Subsidy" Form.
- Properly handle clinical wastes (e.g., needles, syringes and cotton wool balls fully soaked with blood, etc.).
- Ensure all personnel comply with **infection control** guidelines.

(5) Venue Arrangement

Find out if the venue's Terms of Use have any restrictions on outreach vaccination activities.

The vaccination venue should be well lit, ventilated and clean. Adequate and separate areas should be arranged for the vaccine recipients (1) to wait and register, (2) to receive vaccination, (3) to stay and remain under observation after vaccination, and (4) to receive emergency treatment if necessary.

The vaccination venue should have a suitable place for temporarily storage of the clinical waste which cannot be collected immediately after the vaccination activities. Please refer to the "<u>Guideline for Temporary Storage</u> of Clinical Waste Generated in Outreach Vaccination Activities" in **Appendix 2**.

(6) Provide sufficient information to vaccine recipients or parents/guardians of vaccine recipients who are under the age of 18 or mentally incapacitated

- Assist the doctor to distribute essential information (about VSS and the vaccines) to recipients/ parents/ guadians. Information leaflet can be downloaded from CHP website (http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view content/17980.html) or be obtained from Vaccination Office (Tel. 2125 2125).
- **Inform them if service fee is required by the doctor** (not applicable to the Enhanced VSS Outreach Vaccination).
- Ensure that recipients understand that participation in VSS is voluntary. Allow sufficient time for them to decide if they wish to join VSS or not.
- Request healthcare providers to arrange health talk about seasonal influenza vaccination and/ or pneumococcal vaccination.
- Request healthcare providers to provide a telephone number to recipients/ parents/ guardians for enquiries concerning vaccination.
- Inform them that the Department of Health may contact randomly selected recipients or their parents / guardians for information verification.

(7) Checking eligibility and obtaining consent

- Assist the doctor to distribute and collect the <u>Consent To Use Vaccination</u> <u>Subsidy Form</u>
- Ensure that vaccine recipients and parents / guardians acting on behalf of vaccine recipients who are under the age of 18 or mentally incapacitated must:
 - Complete legibly a *Consent To Use Vaccination Subsidy Form* for themselves or for the recipients; and
 - Show documentary poof of **Hong Kong resident status** and other document(s) for certifying the eligibility as necessary, and
 - Show their vaccination record cards, if any.
- Return the duly signed and completed <u>Consent To Use Vaccination</u>
 <u>Subsidy Form</u> to the doctor so that the doctor could verify the vaccine recipient's eligibility for subsidy and check vaccination records at the eHealth System (Subsidies) to prevent duplicated dose.
- Assist the doctor to distribute and collect the **filled** <u>Health Assessment</u>

 <u>Form</u> so that the doctor could assess the vaccine recipient's health status for vaccination. A sample of the health assessment form is uploaded to the CHP website (http://www.chp.gov.hk/en/view_content/17980.html)

(II) On Vaccination Day

(8) Assist to arrange those who have provided the signed and completed Consent To Use Vaccination Subsidy form to receive vaccination

In case of schools, inform the health care providers the list of students who are absent from school or have fever or illness, so that health care providers would not provide vaccination on-site and would make necessary arrangement for these students.

Maintain the order of recipients. For those walk-in persons, the organiser and the doctor should consider whether to accept walk-in application and how to handle.

(9) After Vaccination

- After vaccination, keep the recipients under direct observation for at least 15 minutes.
- If recipients have adverse reactions after vaccination, immediately inform the healthcare providers to assess and provide treatment for them.
- Ensure the healthcare providers have recorded vaccine information on the vaccination record card and have returned the vaccination record cards to the recipients or their parents / guardians.
- The organiser should also keep a record that clearly shows whether a recipient named in the <u>Consent To Use Vaccination Subsidy Form</u> has **actually** received the vaccination on the scheduled day for future inspection.
- Inform/ remind parents/ guardians about the arrangement of the second dose for children under the age of 9 who have never received any seasonal influenza vaccination before.
- Under the Enhanced VSS Outreach Vaccination, healthcare providers
 have to provide the second dose at school for children under 9 who have
 never received seasonal influenza vaccination.

(10) Clinical Waste Handling and Disposal

- Healthcare providers should **properly pack, store and dispose of their clinical waste generated in the vaccination activities** according
 to the Environmental Protection Department's "<u>Code of Practice for the</u>
 <u>Management of Clinical Waste Small Clinical Waste Producers"</u>
 (http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clinicalwaste/file/doc06_en.pdf).
- Healthcare providers should follow **Appendix 2**: "<u>Guideline for Temporary Storage of Clinical Waste Generated in Outreach Vaccination Activities</u>", to dispose clinical waste properly.
- Healthcare providers should arrange disposal of clinical waste on the same day, for example, arrange the licensed clinical waste collector to collect the clinical waste. If collection of clinical waste cannot be arranged on the same day, the organizer may have to store the clinical waste in a **temporary storage area** (as stipulated in the Code of Practice of the Environmental Health Department).

(The organiser may obtain information beforehand from the doctor on how to prepare the temporary storage area in case it is required.)

The above notes are by no means exhaustive. Please refer to Centre for Health Protection website (https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/17980.html) for more information regarding the use of VSS.

Department of Health Sept 2018

<u>Reference Information on the Service Requirements</u> for the Arrangement of Vaccination Activity at Non-Clinic Settings

Some organisations and schools have indicated that they may consider tendering when needed. The information in this appendix is prepared for reference if necessary.

It should be noted that vaccination is medical procedure. The organiser and the doctor in-charge of the arrangement (the doctor) must give due consideration to safety and liability issues when organising vaccination service at non-clinic settings.

Organisers may take reference to information in this appendix when preparing the tendering documents for vaccination activity at non-clinic settings. The content of this Reference is not meant to be exhaustive. The organisers should add their own requirements, amend and delete the inappropriate clauses as necessary. The Department of Health will not have or accept any liability, obligation or responsibility whatsoever for any loss, destruction or damage (including without limitation consequential loss, destruction or damage) however arising from any use / misuse of or reliance on this Reference.

<u>Proposed Service Requirements for the Arrangement of Vaccination Activity at Non-Clinic Settings</u>

- 1. The organiser should specify the following particulars when finding a service provider to arrange an activity for seasonal influenza vaccination and/ or pneumococcal vaccination (for elderly):
 - (i) Target group
 - (ii) Type (or name) of vaccines
 - (iii) Number of estimated recipients
 - (iv) Age range of the recipients
 - (v) Venue of the activity
 - (vi) Address of the venue
 - (vii) Proposed date and timing of the activity
- 2. The Service Provider shall be or arrange a private doctor (the doctor in-charge) who has enrolled in the Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (VSS), to take charge of the whole activity and to provide the following services:

A) Vaccination arrangement

- (i) Provide the name and the type of vaccine which they would provide, e.g. trivalent seasonal influenza vaccine and/ or quadrivalent seasonal influenza vaccine, 23-valent pneumococcal vaccine (for elderly) and/ or 13-valent pneumococcal vaccine (for elderly with high-risk conditions); and ensure the composition of the vaccine is under the coverage of VSS.
- (ii) Strictly follow vaccine manufacturers' recommendation on storage of individual vaccines. Purpose-built vaccine refrigerators (PBVR) are the preferred means of storage for vaccines in clinic. Cold boxes, equipped with ice packs, maximum-minimum temperature thermometers, insulating materials, etc. should be used for transport of vaccines to the vaccination venue. The temperature of the vaccines should be monitored regularly with the thermometer to maintain cold chain at 2-8°C during transport and before administration of vaccines.
- (iii) Provide safe and quality vaccination service.
- (iv) Exercise effective supervision over the trained personnel who cover his duty and retain personal responsibility for the treatment of the patients.
- (v) The VSS doctor is highly preferred to be **present** at the vaccination venue and should be **personally and physically reachable in case of emergency**.
- (vi) Arrange sufficient number of **qualified/trained healthcare personnel** to provide service. The personnel should be trained in emergency management of severe immediate adverse reactions and prepare the equipment.

B) Administration of Vaccination

- (i) Arrange health care professionals to assess the suitability of each individual recipient for vaccination before administration of vaccine. They should check the pre-filled health assessment form and body temperature of the recipient.
- (ii) Ensure that the Consent To Use Vaccination Subsidy Forms are duly completed and signed and verify the vaccine recipient's eligibility for subsidy and check vaccination records at the eHealth System (Subsidies) to prevent duplicated dose.
- (iii) For PCV13 vaccination for elderly, the service providers need to pre-arrange health assessment to confirm the presence of high-risk conditions, to complete and sign on relevant parts of the Consent To

- Use Vaccination Subsidy Form.
- (iv) Give supervision to trained personnel or arrange qualified health care professionals to administer the vaccination. 3 checks (check when taking out the vaccine from the storage; check before preparing the vaccine; check before administering the vaccine) and 7 rights (right person; right drug; right dose; right time; right route; right site; right documentation) for vaccine administration should be properly followed.
- (v) Keep vaccinated persons under direct observation in the venue for at least 15 minutes, to ensure that they do not experience an immediate adverse event before leaving.
- (vi) Properly pack, store and dispose of their clinical waste generated in the vaccination activities in accordance with the Environmental Protection Department's Code of Practice (CoP) for the Management of Clinical Waste (Small Clinical Waste Producers) (http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clinicalwaste/file/doc06_en.pdf) and the Guideline for Temporary Storage of Clinical Waste Generated in Outreach Vaccination Activities provided by the Environmental Protection Department in Appendix 2.
- (vii) Ensure all personnel comply with infection control guidelines. Hand hygiene protocol must be strictly followed before and after administering vaccination to a vaccine recipient.
- (viii) For eligible children under the age of 9 who have never received any seasonal influenza vaccination before, arrange vaccination of a 2^{nd} dose at least four weeks later.

C) Provide sufficient information to vaccine recipients, parents / guardians of vaccine recipients who are under the age of 18 or mentally incapacitated

- (i) Provide them with essential information on VSS and the vaccines. It is preferable to provide health talks on the relevant information.
- (ii) Inform them whether service fee is required by the doctor.
- (iii) Ensure they understand that participation in the Government's VSS is voluntary.
- (iv) Allow sufficient time for them to decide if they wish to join VSS.
- (v) Inform them that the Department of Health may contact randomly selected recipients or their parents / guardians for information verification.

D) Provide proper documentations for the vaccination

(i) Document all vaccinations clearly on a vaccination record card and

- issue the vaccination record cards to the vaccine recipients or their parents / guardians.
- (ii) Document on a vaccination record all vaccinations given, including the name of vaccine, lot number and expiry date, document the name of personnel who administered the injection and the doctor responsible. The record should be kept in a database for inspection in the future.
- (iii) Provide a telephone number to vaccine recipients or their parents / guardians for enquiries.
- 3. All bidders are required to fill in the information as attached in **Appendix** 1(A).

Appendix 1(A)

Bidders please provide detailed information on the following service items:

Service	Information				
Doctor in charge					
	Name :				
	Medical Organisation:				
Types/ names of vaccines	Name	Expiry Date	Service Fees	Service Fee	
and service fees charged			(using subsid	y) (no subsidy)	
Inactivated quadrivalent					
injectable seasonal					
influenza vaccine					
imiuciiza vacciiic					
Inactivated trivalent					
injectable seasonal					
influenza vaccine					
Live attenuated					
quadrivalent nasal					
seasonal influenza vaccine					
Pneumococcal vaccine					
(23vPPV) (for elderly)					
• /					
Pneumococcal vaccine					
(PCV13) (for elderly with high-risk					
conditions)					
Method of vaccine storage	☐ Stored in purpose-built vaccine refrigerators				
in doctor's clinic and	☐ Stored in domestic refrigerator with regular checking of temperature				
transportation of vaccines	☐ Transported in cold boxes with regular checking of temperature				
to vaccination venue	Others, please	specify:			
(put a ✓ as appropriate)					_
Qualification and number	Qualification of the	he on-site staff		Number	
of on-site staff provided on					
day of vaccination (e.g.					
doctor/ registered nurse/					
enrolled nurse / supportive					
staff)			Total		

Would provide Health	☐ Yes	No
Talk(s) or not	(put a ✓ as appropriate)	
	(Qualification of the speaker:)
Would provide Enquiry	☐ Yes	No
Hotline or not	(put a ✓ as appropriate)	
	(Hotline No. :)
	(Operating hours of the hotline:)

Vaccination Subsidy Scheme Guideline for Temporary Storage of Clinical Waste Generated in Outreach Vaccination Activities (Provided by the Environmental Protection Department)

1. Preamble

1.1 The aim of this document is to provide guidance to healthcare workers, organisers and the designated person of the venue amongst outreach vaccination activities, for proper and safe handling and temporary storage of clinical waste generated in outreach vaccination activities.

2. Responsibilities of Healthcare Workers, Organisers and Designated Person of the Venue

- 2.1 According to the Waste Disposal (Clinical Waste) (General) Regulation (the Regulation), healthcare workers, organisers and designated person of the venue involving in outreach vaccination activities should handle the clinical waste properly. They shall take all necessary precautions to prevent danger to public health and safety, pollution to the environment and nuisance to the neighbouring area. Appendix 2(A) illustrates different ways to handle clinical waste generated in the outreach vaccination activities.
- 2.2 Before the outreach vaccination activities, healthcare workers and organisers should pre-arrange with licensed clinical waste collectors* to collect the clinical waste on the same day of the activities. Healthcare workers could also choose to self-deliver their clinical waste to the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre at Tsing Yi by private car on the same day after the event. A note on self-delivery can be found in <u>Appendix 2(B)</u>.
- 2.3 In case the clinical waste could not be collected on the same day (e.g. outreach vaccination activities conducted in the evening or public holidays), healthcare workers and organisers should pre-arrange with designated person of the venue to store the clinical waste temporarily at the venues for the licensed collectors to collect as soon as possible or the healthcare professionals to self-deliver. If no suitable storage area could be provided, healthcare workers and organisers should identify another suitable venue for outreach vaccination activities.

^{*} List of licensed clinical waste collectors : http://epic.epd.gov.hk/EPICDI/clinicalwaste/list/

- 2.4 The healthcare workers should affix a label on each clinical waste container requiring temporary storage (see <u>Appendix 2(C)</u>). The label should clearly display (1) the name of the responsible healthcare worker, (2) name of his/her organisation, (3) emergency contact number, (4) address of waste generation (i.e. the venue address) and (5) the date of sealing. After the sealed container is handed to the venue for temporary storage, it is the responsibility of the designated person of the venue to store the clinical waste properly before collection by licensed collector.
- 2.5 When the licensed collector comes to collect clinical waste stored on-site, the designated person of the venue should sign the trip ticket and forward the pink copy of the trip ticket to the healthcare worker for record.
- 2.6 According to the Regulation, except to the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre direct, delivery of clinical waste to any other places by healthcare workers (including to their own clinics) is not permitted.

3. Requirements of Temporary Storage Area

- 3.1 The temporary storage area of clinical waste should meet with following requirements and specifications:
 - (a) the storage area should be an independent lockable storage cabinet, locker or drawer, and keep away from the area of food preparation and storage;
 - (b) a warning sign and a label comprising (1) the name of the responsible healthcare worker, (2) name of his/her organisation and (3) emergency contact number should be affixed on the door of the storage area (see <u>Appendix 2(C)</u>). The warning sign can be obtained from the Environmental Protection Department free of charge;
 - (c) the storage area should only be used for storage of clinical waste; and
 - (d) any unauthorised access to the temporary storage area should be prohibited.

4. Further Enquiry

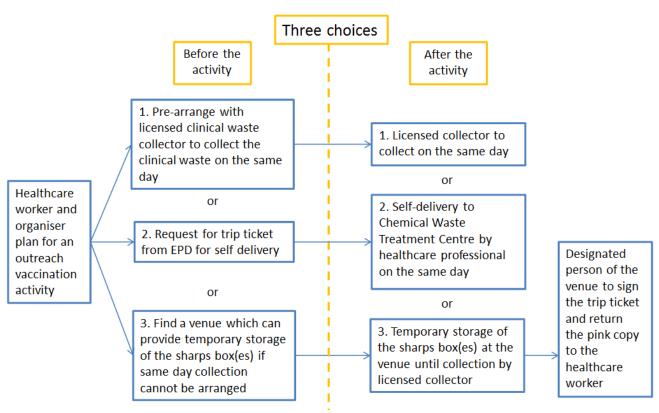
4.1 For any enquiries, please contact Ms. Choi of the Environmental Protection Department at 3178 9356.

Environmental Protection Department September 2018

Appendix 2(A)

Different ways of handling clinical waste generated in the outreach vaccination activities

Outreach Vaccination Activities Clinical Waste Management



Environmental Protection Department Notes to Healthcare Professionals on the Delivery of Clinical Waste to the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre (CWTC)

A healthcare professional (HCP)¹ may directly deliver clinical waste to the CWTC² for disposal but his/her liabilities under the Waste Disposal (Clinical Waste) (General) Regulation (the Regulation) will not be discharged unless the delivery of clinical waste is completed safely and properly. This includes:

- Clinical waste carried is not more than 5 kg and is not Group 4 waste;
- Clinical waste is packaged in an appropriate type of container, sealed and labelled properly;
- Only private car is used for the delivery.

The full requirements are stated in Section 4 of the Regulation and Section 6 of the Codes of Practice.

To self-deliver the clinical waste, the HCP must:

- provide a clinical waste trip ticket³ filled with relevant information, such as the name of the HCP, his/her HCP body registration number and the assigned premises code⁴ of the clinical waste producer;
- show his/her identity and HCP registration proof at the CWTC;
- arrive CWTC during reception hours

The reception hours for receiving clinical waste delivered by HCP at the CWTC are 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Monday to Friday (except for public holiday) (no prior appointment required).

A charge at \$2,715 per 1,000 kg (or \$2.715 per kg)⁵ will be levied on the clinical waste as received and treated at the CWTC. The amount to be paid depends upon the weight of clinical waste received and only cash is accepted.

For any enquiries, please contact Ms. Choi of the Environmental Protection Department at 3178 9356 or visit the webpage https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clinicalwaste/en/index.html.

Footnote

- Healthcare professionals include registered medical practitioners, dentists and veterinary surgeons, registered or listed Chinese medicine practitioners, and registered or enrolled nurses as defined in the Regulation.
- 2. CWTC is located at 51 Tsing Yi Road South, Tsing Yi, New Territories, Hong Kong.
- 3. Blank clinical waste trip tickets can be obtained from EPD by submitting the Request Form for Clinical Waste Trip Tickets. A set of 10 blank trip tickets will be distributed for each request.

 https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clinicalwaste/file/Request%20Form%20for%20Clinical%20Waste%20Trip%20Tickets_en.pdf
- 4. Premises code can be obtained from EPD by submitting the Premises Code Request Form, on which 'outreach service' should be annotated in the Producer Name for outreach vaccination activities:

 https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/clinicalwaste/file/Premises%20Code%20Request%20Form%20(Eng).pdf
- 5 The charge is stipulated under the Waste Disposal (Charges for Disposal of Clinical Waste) Regulation.

Appendix 2(C)

1. Example of a labelled clinical waste container



Name of organisations/	ABC Clinic/
healthcare worker	Dr Chan Tai-man
Emergency contact no.	9123 4567
Address of	DEF Elderly Centre,
clinical waste	G/F, XX House,
generation	XX Estate
Date of sealing	25/11/2018

2. Example of warning sign and label on a temporary storage cabinet



Name of organisations/	ABC Clinic/
healthcare worker	Dr Chan Tai-man
Emergency contact no.	9123 4567