



The Hong Kong Geriatrics Society

Room 2A, 2/F, Ming Tak Centre,
135-137 Tung Chau Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong SAR
Tel: (852) 23741289 Fax : (852) 30075383
Website: <http://www.hkgs.org>

President	: Dr. Luk Ka Hay James	Council	Dr. Au Yeung Tung Wai	Council	Dr. Miu Ka Ying Doris
Vice-President	: Dr. Kng Poey Lyn Carolyn	Members:	Dr. Chan Tak Yeung	Members:	Dr. Shum Chun Keung
Honorary Secretary	: Dr. Lee Shun Wah Jenny		Dr. Lam Ching Yu		Dr. Wong Chit Wai
Honorary Treasurer	: Dr. Tam Kui Fu Stanley		Dr. Lau Sze Ting		Dr. Yung Cho Yiu
Ex-Officio	: Dr. Kong Ming Hei Bernard		Dr. Law Chun Bon Alexander		
Honorary Legal Advisor	: Ms Cecilia Ng		Dr. Leung Chi Shing	Co-op	Dr. Wong Shing Fai
Honorary Auditor	: Mr. Eddy S B Wong		Dr. Man Shiu Piu	member:	Stephen

Dr. KO Wing Man, BBS, JP
Secretary for Food and Health
18 F, East Wing,
Central Government Offices
2 Tim Mei Avenue
Tamar, Hong Kong

Dear Dr Ko,

8 April 2015

Re: Responses from the Hong Kong Geriatrics Society on the Audit Commission Report (30 October 2014) and the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme

The Hong Kong Geriatrics Society (HKGS/the Society) writes in response to the Audit Commission Report (30 October 2014) and the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme.

The Hong Kong Geriatrics Society

Founded in 1981, the Hong Kong Geriatrics Society (HKGS) is the only professional society for geriatricians with 250 regular members. It aims to review and improve the care of the older people in Hong Kong. Its major roles are in geriatric education and training, improving standards of geriatric medicine, geriatric research and making recommendations on government policy concerning older people.

The mission of HKGS

- 1. To promote and develop the specialty of geriatric medicine in Hong Kong*
- 2. To foster high standards of care in the practice of geriatric medicine*
- 3. To promote training to all professionals practicing geriatric medicine*
- 4. To promote geriatric research*
- 5. To recommend public and government on policies and issues concerning older people in Hong Kong*

The vision of HKGS

Every older person in Hong Kong can receive high quality person-centred care with improved quality of life.



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Below outlines our views on the Audit Commission Report (30 October 2014)

Chapter 1

1. Priority of Community Care Services (CCS) vs. Residential Care Service (RCS) – The HKGS in general believes that both CCS and RCS are pillar stones for elderly services in Hong Kong. However, between the two, we are of the opinion that more emphasis should be placed on CCS over RCS.
2. The Society recommends additional role of geriatricians in community care service to elderly and at the same time emphasize geriatricians' role in the intervention during infirmary assessment.
3. The Society recommends more professional nursing input in residential care homes (RCHes) to improve quality of care and we welcome collaborations with SWD to provide more geriatricians' input for subvented RCS services.

Chapter 2

1. The Society welcomes more collaboration with Department of Health (DH), and are happy to provide input in the Elderly Health Centre services, in terms of information exchange and specialist input. We hope that through this we can minimize duplication of services between Hospital Authority (HA) and DH. In addition, medical services to older patients can be enhanced with expedite geriatric assessment and follow-up if needed.
2. Concerning Visiting Health Teams (VHTs) operated by DH in RCHes, we are happy to provide regular geriatric input to VHTs. More cooperation between VHTs and HA Community Geriatric Assessment Team (CGAT) is desirable so as to avoid overlapping of services to RCHes e.g. RCHE staff education.
3. If possible, HKGS recommends the setting up of a strategic platform in which DH, SWD, HA, NGOs and all stakeholders involved in elderly care can join together to plan for elderly services, exchange information and collaborate, with a view to avoid fragmentation and duplication of services as well as to achieve some synergistic effects.
4. The Society supports the shortening of waiting time for Geriatric Specialist OPD new case appointments. Early assessment of older patients can provide timely intervention to their medical and geriatric problems before they become irreversible or serious consequences have occurred e.g. early fall prevention intervention can reduce hip fractures, head injuries etc.



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5. HKGS proposes a better manpower planning in Geriatrics Medicine due to the increasing number of elderly patients with complex health problems.
6. We recommend the allocation of a protected funding mechanism to Geriatrics Medicine within the umbrella of Internal Medicine inside HA, similar to NHS in UK, so as to guarantee the quality of care for older patients.

Voluntary Health Insurance (VHI)

The Society is in support for VHI in Hong Kong, provided that the HK SAR Government will not withhold further investments into the public healthcare system after the implementation of the VHI, as the majority of elderly healthcare is expected to remain in the public sector.

We are more than happy to be contacted, should you wish to obtain more information about the HKGS viewpoints in the abovementioned areas or other aspects of elderly care.

We look forward to hearing from your viewpoints and your directions in the immediate future.

Yours sincerely,

Dr James Luk

MBBS(HK), MSc(Experimental Med)(UBC), FRCP(Edin,Glasg,Irel), FHKCP, FHKAM(Medicine)

President

The Hong Kong Geriatrics Society

Email: lukkh@ha.org.hk

Tel: 2855 6182

Enclosed: Audit Commission Report 2014 (PDF)