



衛生防護中心
Centre for Health Protection

Risk Communication Advisory Group (RCAG)

Development of a Strategic Framework on Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

Purpose

This paper aims to give an outline of the action plan for developing a strategic framework on prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCD) in Hong Kong.

Background

2. Worldwide, people are facing serious challenges in health care due to rising trends in NCD which have placed a heavy burden on the individual, family and society as a whole in terms of morbidity and mortality.

3. Hong Kong is of no exception. In 2003, the top five leading causes of death were cancer, diseases of heart, pneumonia, cerebrovascular diseases and chronic lower respiratory diseases. Altogether, the four major NCD (excluding pneumonia) accounted for 61.5% of total deaths in Hong Kong.



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Department of Health for
disease prevention and
control*

4. The burden of NCD on our community is expected to increase partly due to population ageing and partly due to changing risk profile of the population. Yet many NCD share common risk factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and alcohol misuse which are highly preventable, and effective action on prevention is, therefore, a high priority. Facing with this major epidemic of NCD, we need to develop a comprehensive strategic framework for the prevention and control of NCD in Hong Kong.

Goals of the Framework

5. The primary goals of the framework are to:
- prevent and/or delay the onset of chronic disease for individuals and population groups;
 - reduce the progression and complications of chronic diseases;
 - reduce avoidable hospital admissions and health care procedures;
 - enhance the capacity of the health workforce to meet population demand for chronic disease prevention and care into the future.

Guiding Principles of Development of the Framework

6. The framework will be developed with reference to the global strategy for the prevention and control of NCD developed by the World Health Organization at the 53rd World Health Assembly (Annex II), with focus on the following four areas:

(1) Generate an effective information base to guide action

- Improve surveillance of behavioural risk factors and track change in the risk profile of the population;
- Undertake systemic review to develop evidence based approaches and interventions;
- Support sound research initiative;
- Develop a systematic health information dissemination strategy to further empower the individual with health knowledge.

(2) Strengthen health promotion and NCD prevention initiatives

- Foster implementation of territory-wide health promotion programmes, such as “ healthy eating ” , “ active living ” , “ tackling overweight”;
- Support setting-based integrated approaches to NCD prevention, e.g. health promoting schools, smoke-free public places, healthy workplaces;
- Mobilize resources and provide support for key non-governmental organizations in NCD prevention.

(3) Ensure a responsive health system to NCD challenge and improve system of care

- Strengthen the role of health promotion and disease prevention in the health care system;
- Develop evidenced-based guidelines for effective management of the major NCD.

(4) Strengthen partnership and engagement

- Form specific working groups to advise priority actions required in specific areas (of prevention), and to provide strategic governance;
- Foster public-private partnerships and network all stakeholders to identify opportunities for collaboration;
- Involve and engage local communities and the public to create a health conducive environment.

Action Plan

7. To develop the strategic framework, the following action plan is being implemented:

- Reviewing the current health status in terms of NCD and the existing capacity to track changes in the risk profile of the population.
- Reviewing what are being done already in addressing the NCD issues, both within and outside the Government.
- Reviewing the global evidence base for NCD prevention and control and drawing on best practices internationally.

- Consulting key health care agencies, professional groups, public and private stakeholders to seek their buy-in and generate ideas on the priorities and delivery mechanism for the prevention and control of NCD.
- Recommending priority areas and target groups for actions and setting targets for attainment where appropriate.

8. DH will draft a strategic framework on prevention and control of NCD following stakeholder consultation. DH will convene working groups to provide strategic governance and oversee implementation of actions. The working groups would also advise on target setting and rally intersectoral and community support under each priority area.

Advice Sought

9. Members are invited to note the content of this paper and are welcome to give their views.

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