



Governance
and Executive
Agents in the
Public Sector

Annex
2

(A) Food and Health Bureau

1. The Food and Health Bureau (“FHB”) is responsible for the overall policy formulation and resource planning for Hong Kong’s healthcare system. It ensures these policies are implemented effectively and in a timely manner to protect and promote public health and provide lifelong holistic care to every citizen, while ensuring that no one will be denied adequate treatment due to a lack of means. For cancer control, the FHB oversees a wide spectrum of activities covering cancer surveillance, risk factor reduction, health promotion, cancer screening, quality treatment, palliative care and research executed through the Department of Health (“DH”), the Hospital Authority (“HA”) and the Research Office (“RO”), in collaboration with stakeholders and partners outside the Government.

(B) Cancer Coordinating Committee

2. In 2001, the FHB established a high-level Cancer Coordinating Committee (“CCC”) to steer the direction of work and advise on the strategies for cancer prevention and control. The CCC is chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health (“SFH”) with membership drawn from the government, non-governmental and academic sectors comprising experts from various fields of clinical medicine and public health.²⁵ The membership of the CCC is set out at Appendix A of this annex. Under the CCC, the Cancer Expert Working Group on Cancer Prevention and Screening (“CEWG”) was set up in 2002. Its role has been to review local and international scientific evidence, assess and formulate local recommendations for cancer prevention and screening. Its membership comprises public health practitioners, clinicians, and research experts from public, private and academic sectors.²⁶ The membership of the CEWG is set out at Appendix B of this annex.

²⁵ The terms of reference of the CCC is –

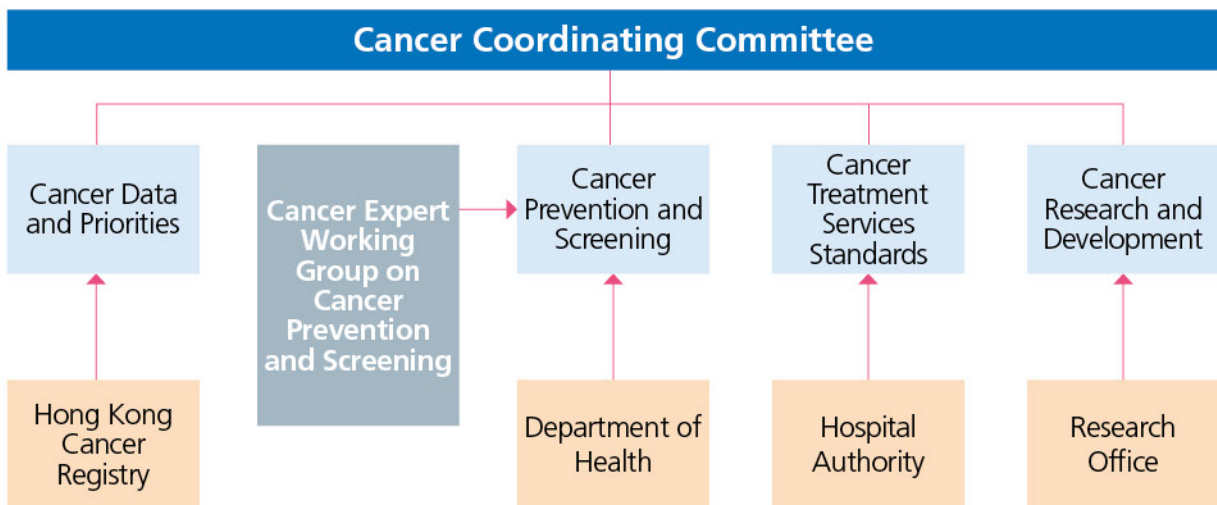
- (a) to steer the direction of work on cancer prevention and control;
- (b) to advise on the planning and development of cancer prevention and control strategies;
- (c) to receive reports from the four functional areas, namely cancer prevention and screening, treatment, surveillance and research;
- (d) to oversee the work of the CEWG; and
- (e) to assess recommendations of the CEWG and facilitate their implementation.

²⁶ The terms of reference of the CEWG is –

- (a) to review the scientific evidence on effectiveness and efficacy of primary prevention and screening intervention on cancers;
- (b) to assess primary prevention and screening interventions on cancers currently practised in Hong Kong as related to the scientific evidence;
- (c) to formulate guidelines for cancer primary prevention and screening in both clinical and community settings; and
- (d) to recommend strategies for implementation of the guideline and monitoring/evaluation of mechanism(s) for performance.

The CCC annually reviews cancer epidemiology, developments in service provision and planning to address evolving needs, considers and endorses new or revised recommendations put forward by the CEWG, and considers plans and outcomes of cancer-related research funded by the FHB.

Organisational Structure of Cancer Coordinating Committee since August 2014



(C) Hong Kong Cancer Registry

3. The Hong Kong Cancer Registry (“HKCaR”) is a population-based cancer registry responsible for overseeing cancer surveillance and providing a framework for accessing the impact of cancer on the community. Its main mission is to collect and report the local cancer incidence and mortality rates, by collecting, consolidating and validating basic demographic data, information on the topography and histology of all cancers diagnosed in Hong Kong, according to the standards depicted by the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization (“WHO”). Analyses of the information demonstrate variations in cancer pattern over time, thus providing a basis for comparative geographical, epidemiological and clinical research, as well as supporting cancer control services in planning, monitoring and service evaluation.

(D) Department of Health

4. The DH is the Government's health adviser and agency to execute healthcare policies and statutory functions. It safeguards the community's health primarily through a range of promotional, preventive and health protection services. The DH provides primary healthcare services through a network of Maternal and Child Health Centres ("MCHCs"), Student Health Service Centres, Women Health Centres and Elderly Health Centres; and executes public health control functions through a number of Chest Clinics, Social Hygiene Clinics and Integrated Treatment Centre free of charge or at heavily subsidised rates.
5. The DH also actively promotes healthy diet across the life course, encourages regular physical activity for all, implements effective tobacco control measures and educates the public on alcohol-related harm using a variety of means regarding cancer control. All along, the DH has promoted primary cancer prevention through various health promotion, education and protection efforts in collaboration with community partners, so as to reduce the burden of cancer. Some examples are provided as follows –
 - (a) promoting the adoption of a healthy lifestyle: the DH has been advocating adherence to a balanced and healthy diet, doing regular physical activity, avoiding smoking and alcohol drinking, maintaining healthy body weight and waist circumference, and encouraging exclusive breastfeeding, etc. In December 2018, the DH launched a one-year territory-wide "*Healthy Hong Kong 2025 | Move for Health*" Campaign, which aims to raise the public's awareness on and participation in healthy living, and to encourage the public to increase their physical activity to build an active lifestyle and prevent non-communicable diseases ("NCD"). The DH is providing funding of up to \$250,000 in 2019-20 to encourage each District Council to organise community health promotion activities aimed at prevention and control of NCD at the district level;
 - (b) implementing tobacco control measures: the Tobacco and Alcohol Control Office ("TACO") under the DH has been safeguarding public health by discouraging smoking, containing the proliferation of tobacco use and minimising the impact of passive smoking on the public through publicity, education, legislation, enforcement, taxation and smoking cessation;

- (c) discouraging alcohol consumption: the TACO helps enforce the statutory regime to prohibit commercial sale and supply of alcohol to minors, and prohibit minors from drinking alcohol on licensed premises, as laid down in the Dutiable Commodities (Liquor) Ordinance (Cap. 109B); and
 - (d) vaccinating against Hepatitis B virus: the DH has been offering free immunisation to children up to the age of five at MCHCs.
6. The DH also regularly monitors the trend of health behaviours among the local population that may predispose to or protect against cancer development, and monitors the effectiveness of health promotion and cancer prevention actions through ongoing monitoring and evaluation activities. As the major provider of childhood immunisation services, the DH provides hepatitis B vaccination to babies and will introduce human papillomavirus vaccination to female students starting from the 2019/20 school year. The Cervical Screening Programme was launched in 2004, in collaboration with healthcare professionals in the public, private and non-governmental sectors, achieved an ever screening coverage of 62.9% among women aged between 30 and 49 who had been screened for cervical cancer by cervical smear test.^{27, 28} To increase screening uptake among low-income groups, the DH embarked on a pilot scheme in December 2017 to strengthen cervical cancer screening services and cancer preventive education among low-income groups through non-governmental organisations (“NGOs”) under the Community Care Fund. Regarding colorectal cancer screening, the screening coverage is about 28% in 2015.²⁹ To curb the burden of colorectal cancer, the DH launched the colorectal cancer screening programme as a pilot in September 2016 and it has been regularised since August 2018 to cover persons aged between 50 and 75 in phases. The DH’s Women Health Service continues to offer mammography screening to women assessed in accordance with the CEWG’s recommendation to be at increased risk of developing breast cancer. Promotion of breast awareness, breastfeeding and healthy lifestyle remains the key strategy for breast cancer

²⁷ In Hong Kong, women aged between 25 and 64 who ever had sex are recommended to receive regular cervical cancer screening. According to the Population Health Survey (“PHS”) 2014/15, about 60% of women aged between 25 and 64 had ever had cervical cancer screening while over 47% had been screened within the past three years.

²⁸ It refers to the proportion of women aged between 30 and 49 screened for cervical cancer at least once as deployed by the WHO for reporting of the coverage of cervical screening programme.

²⁹ According to the PHS 2014/15, 28% of asymptomatic persons aged between 50 and 75 in Hong Kong had ever received colorectal cancer screening through faecal occult blood test or colonoscopy or both.

prevention among women of average risk. In minimising population exposure to hazards in the environment which may pose a cancer risk, the DH plays a health advisory, advocacy and promoter role, working in collaboration with other government bureaux/departments, agencies and NGOs, through policy formulation, regulation, capacity building and public education.

(E) Hospital Authority

7. The HA, established in December 1990, is responsible for managing all public hospitals in Hong Kong. It is accountable to the Government through the SFH, who formulates overall health policies for Hong Kong. The HA, with over 78 000 staff (full time equivalents), manages 43 hospitals/institutions, 49 Specialist Outpatient Clinics and 73 General Outpatients Clinics in seven clusters as of 31 December 2018. As of 31 March 2018, the HA has some 28 000 beds, catering for nearly 90% of inpatient healthcare needs in Hong Kong.
8. Under the HA, cancer service is organised and operated through –
 - (a) a cluster-based approach comprising seven HA clusters (under which there is a total of six oncology centres). The redevelopment project at United Christian Hospital (“UCH”), where the 7th oncology centre will be located, is targeted to be completed in 2023 tentatively; and
 - (b) a coordinated cross-specialty (including oncology, medicine, surgery, radiology, pathology, etc.) and cross-disciplinary service system.
9. At the corporate level, the HA Central Committee on Cancer Service and Coordinating Committee (“COC”) in Clinical Oncology and other key COCs form a multi-disciplinary coordinating platform for advising the service gaps and priorities for cancer service. With regard to the collaboration of cancer services and development in the private sector, the HA has implemented the “Project on Enhancing Radiological Investigation Services through Collaboration with the Private Sector” since May 2012. Target patients from 11 selected cancer groups

(subject to clinical eligibility screening) are offered a choice to receive computed tomography (“CT”)/ Magnetic Resonance Imaging (“MRI”) examinations from participating service providers under full subsidy.

10. In 2017, the HA published the Strategic Service Framework for Palliative Care to guide the development of the HA’s palliative care service over next five to ten years, for both adult and paediatric patients. Currently, palliative care services are provided in all HA clusters in the forms of in-patient service, ambulatory service (home care, out-patient, day hospice) and bereavement service.
11. In view of the growing demand and complexity of the cancer services, the HA is developing a Strategic Service Framework for Cancer Services. It aims to identify areas for improvement, guide the development of service model and system infrastructure for cancer services in HA over the next five to ten years.
12. To further enhance the service capacity, the HA will continue to increase the Operating Theatre (“OT”) sessions to augment the capacity for cancer operations by building up facilities and increase in manpower (e.g. OT block in Tuen Mun Hospital) and augment radiotherapy and chemotherapy service capacity.
13. In addition, the HA will commission the seventh oncology centre in UCH upon completion of its redevelopment which is scheduled for 2023 to meet the local needs in Kowloon East.
14. The HA will collaborate with government departments, NGOs and private stakeholders to support patients and their carers throughout cancer care journey.

(F) Research Office

15. The RO was set up in the FHB to administer and disburse funds from the Health and Medical Research Fund to support cutting-edge science on health and medical research including cancer, and evidence-based health promotion projects in the community.

Appendix A

Membership of Cancer Coordinating Committee (2018 - 2021)

Chairperson :	Secretary for Food and Health
Deputy Chairperson :	Director of Health
Non-official Members :	Dr Alex CHAN Chak-lam Dr Michael CHAN Ho-ming Prof. Francis CHAN Ka-leung Dr Karen CHAN Kar-loen Dr Angus CHAN Ming-wai Prof. Anthony CHAN Tak-cheung Dr Ashley CHENG Chi-kin Dr Samuel KWOK Po-yin Dr Ava KWONG Prof. Cindy LAM Lo-kuen Dr June LAU Sze-man Prof. Gabriel Matthew LEUNG Prof. Raymond LIANG Hin-suen Prof. Roger NGAN Kai-cheong Dr Nelson SIU Shing-shun Dr Thomas TSANG Ho-fai Dr YAU Chun-chung Dr Kenny YUEN Ka-ye
Ex-officio Members :	Deputy Secretary for Food and Health (Health) ¹ , Food and Health Bureau Controller, Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health Consultant, Research Office, Food and Health Bureau Director (Cluster Services), Hospital Authority Director, Hong Kong Cancer Registry
Secretary :	Consultant Community Medicine (Non-Communicable Disease), Department of Health

Appendix B

Membership of Cancer Expert Working Group on Cancer Prevention and Screening (2018 - 2021)

Chairman :	Dr Thomas TSANG Ho-fai
Co-chairman :	Controller, Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health
Members :	Dr Kate ALLEN Dr Karen CHAN Kar-loen Dr Miranda CHAN Chi-mui Dr David CHAO VK Prof. Annie CHEUNG Nga-yin Dr Cecilia FAN Yuen-man Dr Edwin HUI Pun Dr Dennis IP Kai-ming Dr LAM Ka-on Dr LAW Chun-key Prof. LAW Wai-lun Dr Herbert LOONG Ho-fung Dr WONG Kam-hung Prof. Martin WONG Chi-sang Dr Rebecca YEUNG Mei-wan Dr Anthony YING Chi-ho
Secretary :	Consultant Community Medicine (Non-Communicable Disease), Department of Health