



**Investing in Hong Kong Government Measures for the Elderly on Medical Benefits**

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# Introduction

- ❖ Ageing population and low birth rate → No. of elders ↑
- lots of changes and challenges in HK social system ↑
- Healthcare & Social Welfare in HK
- HK Gov. cooperates with private hospital -> provide an choice for elders
  - to curtail the waiting time
  - to improve the quality of public health services
- ❖ HK Gov. provides health care support and service
  - for responding elders who contributed to HK society

# Backgr ound

- an elder is an important social role
- An aged 65 or above elders can apply subsidized healthcare services
- an acceptable and capable residential health care services
  - to ensure and provide necessary support them
  - to promote **well-being, sense of security and sense of worthiness**
- the average of life expectancy at birth in HK in 2015  
males: **81.2** and females: **87.3**
- Hong Kong has a high-quality health care system
  - to provide a plan to build a healthy and safe community
- ageing population  
one in three elderly persons was living in poverty in HK

# Backgr ound

- Most of the elders had a different type of disease  
E.g. Alzheimer's
- implement the universal health service in Hong Kong
- The cost of total medical treatment lower than
  - the system of society insurance
  - private hospital's medical insurance
- the expenditure of the hospital was paid by the Government
  - have patient right in public hospital
- The Gov. provide variety of social services and benefits to the elders

1. The Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme

2. Medical Subsidies for elderly

3. Residential Care Services for the Elderly



# The Elderly health care voucher



- ❖ Ageing population -> one in three elderly persons was living in poverty in HK
  - ❖ The elders were fear of seeking health care in private hospital -> not enough money
  - ❖ solving the issue of long waiting time at A&E Department in Government Hospital
- subsidizes HK resident's elders aged 70 or above to use private primary care services in the community


# The Elderly health care scheme

Year	Voucher amount
2009	\$250
2010	\$250
2011	\$250
2012	\$500
2013	\$1000
2014	\$2000
2015	\$2000

- ❖ Regular support program start at 2009
- The annual voucher amount is \$2000
- The voucher recipient can be used required health service center:
  - Chinese medicine practitioners
  - Dentists
  - Chiropractors
  - Physiotherapists
  - occupational therapists
  - radiographers
- understand the knowledge of preventing the disease after body checking
- To encourage the elderly using the health care service in private hospital



# The Elderly health care voucher

Positive comments	Negative comments
subsidizing the elders' expenditure of health care service in the hospital and other uses related to health	only capable using in the private hospital and clinic
enhances the chance of body checking for elderly	
Getting appropriate treatment at time	
The elders will be getting a treatment faster if they went to the private hospital with using the health care voucher	



# The Elderly health care voucher scheme

❖ The policy should decrease negative functions of health care system in functionalist theory in the society

→ society as a system of parts -> maintain the cohesion of the whole system

→ The elders do not agree sickness is a business

✘ pay for the preventing healthcare treatment

→ **TIME** is a necessary resource

- educate the knowledge of the disease
- teach the public how to prevent

→ an effective medical care for society to function



# Residential care service for the elderly

❖ provide care service for the elders who need assistance with personal care needs and daily living activities

- Residential Care Service
- A Hostel for the Elderly
- A Home for the Aged
- A Care and Attention Home for the Elderly
- A Nursing Home

→ To achieve the goal of “Ageing in Place” and “Continuum of Care”

→ To improve the healthcare system at home and community

❖ HK Gov. implement the policy for subsidized residential care homes

→ building new day care places

→ extend the service hours of the new day care centers for the elderly



# Residential care service for the elderly

❖ The Social Welfare Department (SWD)

- provide the Enhance Home and Community Care Services (EHCCS)
- provide support and strengthen family cohesion starting for the elders in the community

❖ Residential care services

- provide residential cares, healthcare, meals, and personal cares to the elders

❖ The project planning of Care and Attention Homes

- help the poor health or physical mental disabilities elders



# Residential care service for the elderly



- ❖ The Government intervention in health
- suggest the purchase of privately-produced health services
- ❖ The bureaucratic coordination become the dominant structural feature of modern societies

**E.g.** the Enhanced Brought Place Scheme(EBPS)

- since 1998
- a scheme for elderly to curtail the waiting time in the nursing home
- subsidize the elders in private nursing home
  
- HK Gov. suggestion
  - > improving the quality of customer service
  - > upgrading the service standard in private nursing home
  - > enhanced service requirement and space standard

In this case

the Gov. makes the planning possible through the organizational device with the Scheme

# Residential care service for the elderly

- The elder abuse in the nursing home
- increasingly common in recent year on internet or newspaper



## Scandal-plagued Hong Kong nursing home set to change its name and operator

Cambridge Nursing Home was rocked by scandal in May last year when elderly residents were made to wait naked on rooftop before taking a shower

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# Medical subsidies for elderly

- ❖ Increasing in the number of elderly patient with chronic disease

E.g. pneumococcal infection - is one of common disease in Hong Kong  
- high risk in the elder's group.

- ❖ the Hong Kong Government provide a subsidization on those schemes

- 1. the Elderly Vaccination Subsidy Scheme**

- 2. Cataract Surgeries Program (CSP)**

- 3. "Pilot Project on Outreach Primary Dental Care Services for the Elderly in RCHEs and DEs"  
(the Pilot Project)**



# Medical subsidies for

## 1. the Elderly Vaccination Subsidy Scheme

- aged 65 or above
- receive vaccination against seasonal influenza and pneumococcal infections
- \$160 per dose of seasonal influenza
- \$190 per dose of pneumococcal vaccination



## 2. Cataract Surgeries Program (CSP)

- the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
- first Government-funded program in 2008
- provide additional cataract surgeries
- HK Gov. offers \$5000 subsidy
  - > the elders only pay for the private ophthalmologist's fees (will not be more than \$8000)



## 3. "Pilot Project on Outreach Primary Dental Care Services for the Elderly in RCHEs and DEs" (the Pilot Project)

- 3 years program
- provide primary dental care & oral health care services to elders
- provide service for elders including dental check-up & dental treatments



**Recommendations**



# recommendation

Most of the elderly person were living in the poverty

→ relied on Government subsidies and welfare

1. the Government should work out a long-term solution for an ageing society
2. granting of one - off double – fruit – money
  - will not meet the needs of the impoverished elderly
3. Launching an Old Age Living Allowance (OALA)
  - cannot completely solve the problem of elderly poverty
  - “The Universal Retirement Protection Scheme”
    - > resolve the elderly poverty problem
4. the Elderly Health Care Center extend the opening duration for 24 hours
  - solve the problem of long waiting time in an A&E
5. HK Gov. should put more resource on the medical treatment
  - extend a building of Government hospital.



conclusion



# conclusion

## 1. At present

- HK Gov. curtail the resource of medical service in Gov. hospital
- provide a subsidy for attracting elderly to go to **the private hospital**
  - > not to improve the operation system in **public hospital**
- unequal resource allocation -> large workload of the medical staff in public hospital



## 2. At the end

- improve the health care system
- advancing the prevention and treatment of disease help decrease the risk of getting illness for the elders
- educate the knowledge of public health
- promote the prevention of diseases
- prevent the chronic illness for the elderly

## ❖ the Hong Kong Government

- vital role in reducing our country's wealth and poverty among the elderly.



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