

For Immediate Release

HKSH Healthcare Launches Elderly Care and Community Nursing Services to Promote Healthy Ageing

(Hong Kong, 20 May 2017) A new service model in promoting care for the elderly has been adopted by HKSH Healthcare at its recently launched Senior Citizen Wellness Centre at The Tanner Hill which encompasses a comprehensive range of services including geriatric medicine out-patient services, preventive care and health promotional activities.

As a forerunner, the centre, in response to increasing patient needs, will also be providing services on “advance directive”, “end-of-life and dying at home care” to terminally-ill patients. Some of these services will be delivered in partnership with a new community nursing programme to be launched on Monday (22 May).

The launch was announced by Deputy Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, Dr. Joseph CHAN, today at the grand opening ceremony of HKSH Healthcare Senior Citizen Wellness Centre and Launching Ceremony of HKSH Community Nursing Service.

The centre will be served by a team of specialists in Geriatric Medicine who are experienced in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic geriatric illnesses. The specialists will also take care of the rehabilitation, psychological and social needs of the elderly with a view to enhancing their quality of life.

The Centre, serving residents of The Tanner Hill and the local community since December last year, was formally opened at a ceremony today officiated by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr. Stephen SUI; the Acting Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophie CHAN; the chairman of Eastern District Council, Mr. WONG Kin Pan together with Deputy Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, Dr. Joseph CHAN and Director of Geriatric Medicine of HKSH, Dr. Edward LEUNG.

The soon-to-be-launched community nursing service will provide holistic and continuous care and treatments to patients residing on Hong Kong Island with referrals from doctors of the hospital and HKSH Healthcare. Community nurse will conduct clinical assessments and carry out tailor-made care plans during home visits, allowing patients to receive treatments and recover in their home environment.

Dr. Joseph CHAN said at the ceremony that the new services cater for the needs of the ageing population in Hong Kong. “We hope to foster the power of positivity among elderly through services tailor-made for different age groups and health profiles. Promoting health education, regular check-ups and disease management encourages healthy and happy ageing. End-of-life care, on the other hand, can be provided through Advance Directive and Advance Care Planning for peace of mind. Dying at home can also be considered as a viable option for some patients and families.”

Dr. Edward LEUNG, Specialist in Geriatric Medicine, added, “In light of requests from patients, HKSH has since last year introduced a scheme to facilitate patients to install Advance Directive. We are also the first medical institution to provide ‘Dying at Home’ support for patients who opt for staying home till their last breath. It is important for them to have a choice. Equally important is that family members are able to understand options available and that wishes of their loved ones are respected. Communicating such emotional issues to patients, offering them counseling and support, can be time-consuming. This is where the private sector can play a role in offering options and time for patients in need.”

Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr. Stephen SUI, said at the ceremony that elderly care top on the administration’s social agenda. “We hope that through ‘Ageing in Place’ our senior citizens will spend their retirement years in their own neighbourhood. As Hong Kong has entered into an era of rapid ageing in its population, there is a growing demand in medical and community care services. Those who can afford will be eyeing on quality services in the private sector. The recently opened Senior Citizen Wellness Centre offers an additional choice for this target group and help alleviate pressure on the public sector.”

HKSH Community Nursing Service is the first in Hong Kong to be launched in private sector integrating inpatient, outpatient and community care services under one umbrella. Dr. Joseph CHAN highlighted the unique features of the community nursing programme. “Unlike ordinary private nurses or home care services, our professional community nurse will meet with referring doctors and Named Nurses to thoroughly understand the patient’s profile and discuss the home care plan together. The nurse will also compile regular reports to the referring doctors about the home visits to ensure quality of home care and patient recovery. The service is more extensive and in-depth in nature,” explained Dr. Chan.

The fee for home visit stands at \$800, excluding cost of procedures. HKSH community nurses also provide health education, care instructions and home assessment to empower patients and their caregivers towards better disease management.

Acting Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia CHAN, also praised HKSH’s commitment in caring for the elderly population and their health issues. “Ageing population is impacting on all aspects of the society. The government is determined to address the issues through targeted health policy. It is important to ensure that there is a close public-private collaboration in achieving our common goals. The integrated service of HKSH Healthcare Senior Citizen Wellness Centre and HKSH Community Nursing Service represents an innovative approach in healthcare planning, further bringing public education and nursing education to the community. It is a commitment demonstrated by HKSH and it is also exemplary of how public and private sectors can complement each other in service provision.”

Mr. WONG Kin-pan, Chairman of Eastern District Council, in his remarks at the ceremony, added that HKSH has been closely connected with Eastern District through its services in Taikoo and North Point. “Eastern District has one of the highest ratios of senior citizens in Hong Kong and therefore it is welcoming news that HKSH is serving the district with more quality services,” Mr. WONG said.

About HKSH Healthcare

HKSH Healthcare comprises a network of medical centres, which aim at delivering state-of-the-art and patient-centred care in Hong Kong. A member of HKSH Medical Group, HKSH Healthcare shares the core values of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital on clinical excellence and patient care. It offers top quality community care, primary care and specialty care at convenient locations throughout Hong Kong.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Department of Corporate Affairs, HKSH Medical Group

Ms. Carol KWOK Tel: 3156 8078

Ms. Winny POON Tel: 3156 8071

Email: media@cad.hksh.com

Photo

1. HKSH Healthcare Senior Citizen Wellness Centre and HKSH Community Nursing Service were formally launched at a ceremony today officiated by the Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Mr. Stephen SUI (second from the left); the Acting Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophie CHAN (second from the right); the chairman of Eastern District Council, Mr. WONG Kin Pan (left) together with Deputy Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, Dr. Joseph CHAN (middle) and Director of Geriatric Medicine of HKSH, Dr. Edward LEUNG (right).



2. Dr. Joseph CHAN, Deputy Medical Superintendent of Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital, at the ceremony that the new services of HKSH Healthcare aim at catering for the needs of the ageing population in Hong Kong to promote happy and healthy ageing.

