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2810 3561

2899 2967

18 May 2001

Hon Lau Chin-shek
Chairman
Legislative Council Panel on Manpower
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Hon Lau,

**Legislative Council Panel on Manpower
Meeting on 18 January 2001
Follow-up Action**

At the Panel meeting on 18 January 2001, a Member requested for detailed information on the existing occupational rehabilitation treatment and services. I would like to provide the reply as follows.

At present, medical rehabilitation services are mainly provided by the Hospital Authority through a network of more than 50 rehabilitation centres and clinics. According to the Health and Welfare Bureau, the Hospital Authority provides integrated rehabilitation services to all injured persons, including employees injured at work. Depending on the presenting conditions of the individual patient, appropriate treatment and rehabilitation programmes will be provided.

For work-related injuries, injured employees would normally be admitted by the Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments of public hospitals where immediate medical care is provided. If medically required, they would be admitted into hospitals for further treatments. Doctors would, as appropriate, refer patients to in-patient or out-patient departments for rehabilitation.

For those patients who do not require hospitalisation, doctors in the A&E departments would refer them to the Orthopaedic Specialist Out-patient Department (SOPD) if their conditions require further medical treatment.

The Authority has put in place a triage system where priority would be given to urgent cases. For example, patients suffering from fractures would be seen within two days. The median waiting time for first appointment for the Orthopaedic SOPD is about six weeks. Orthopaedic doctors at the SOPD would decide what type of treatment is required and would refer those patients who require occupational rehabilitation to the Occupational Therapy Department. The first treatment session usually starts within two weeks from referral.

The Occupational Health Clinics operated by the Labour Department also provide services for occupational diseases and work-related injuries. Complementing the medical rehabilitation services provided by the Hospital Authority, doctors at the clinics provide individual health counselling and health education to the patients and refer cases for workplace inspections during which advice on working environment improvements would be given and enforcement action would be taken, where appropriate. These also form part of the Government's package of rehabilitation services for employees injured at work. The waiting time for services at the Occupational Health Clinic varies from two to four weeks.

Should Members have further enquiry, please contact the undersigned at 2810 3561.

Yours sincerely,

(K K Lam)
for Secretary for Education and Manpower

c.c. Secretary for Health and Welfare (Attn: Miss Joanna Choi)
Commissioner for Labour (Attn: Dr W K Lo)