

## **Information Note on Emergency Placement in Residential Care Services for Elders**

### **(A) Introduction**

Emergency placement is provided in residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) and nursing homes (NHs) to offer temporary or short-term residential care service for elders. It serves the objective of preventing the elders from risks until their next-of-kin are located for the elders' restoration to families, or other alternatives are arranged.

The target group of the service is elders who require immediate short-term residential care placement on a temporary basis.

### **(B) Provision of Emergency Places**

Emergency placement service is provided in subvented RCHEs and NHs in the form of designated places in the following types of service –

- (1) Nursing Home (NH);
- (2) Care & Attention (C&A) Home; and
- (3) Home for the Aged (H/A)<sup>1</sup>.

List of these homes can be downloaded from SWD Homepage at <http://www.swd.gov.hk/> by clicking on Public Services, then Services for the Elderly and then Emergency Placement.

### **(C) Service Target**

Elders aged 65 years or above<sup>2</sup> who meet the admission criteria of RCHE/NH<sup>3</sup>, the conditions (f) and (g) below, and one or more of the conditions (a) to (e) below may be accepted for emergency placement –

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<sup>1</sup> Emergency placement of Homes for the Aged (H/A) will be phased out when all RCHEs providing H/A emergency placement have started the programme to convert H/A places, including emergency places, into care and attention places providing continuum of care.

<sup>2</sup> Persons aged between 60 and 64 may apply if there is a proven need.

<sup>3</sup> Referring workers may make reference to MDS-HC in determining the type of service required, although MDS-HC assessment is not necessary for admission to emergency placement.

- (a) homeless without the prospect of immediate restoration to family; or
- (b) evicted (or facing imminent eviction) from the accommodations for various reasons; or
- (c) fit for discharge from hospital upon completion of medical treatment yet having difficulty in taking care of oneself or having no suitable care-givers to attend to; or
- (d) in acute immediate need of alternative placement due to relationship problem at existing residence and in weak health<sup>4</sup> to the extent that immediate removal/transfer is necessary to avoid risks to lives, such as elder abuse cases; or
- (e) unable to be taken care of by care-givers owing to acute unforeseeable crisis situation such as hospitalisation or imprisonment of care-givers or sudden deterioration of the elderly person's health conditions which cannot be coped with by the care-givers and community support services with the result that the elderly person's continuous stay in his/her home will pose dangers to his/her health; and
- (f) certified free from contagious diseases; and
- (g) mentally fit for communal living and having no persistent tendency to violence, self-destruction/self-injury or disruptive behaviour.

Emergency placement of Care and Attention Homes caters for elders who have not yet reached the nursing home care level.

#### **(D) Application Procedures**

Referrals for admission to emergency placement should be made by a social worker. Elders or persons acting on behalf of the elders may approach casework service units (e.g. Family Services Centres/Integrated Family Service Centres and Medical Social Services Units) or elderly service units for assistance if required.

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<sup>4</sup> Please refer to the respective criteria for admission to different types of residential service.

**(E) Duration of Stay**

The period of stay should not exceed three months, other than very exceptional circumstances for which the referring worker would have to provide justifications as well as a prospective discharge plan. Emergency placement should not be taken as a solution to meeting the long-term placement needs of elders.

**(F) Fees**

Elders occupying emergency placement are exempted from payment of service fees for the first three months of stay, in order to allow adequate time for arrangement of financial and other forms of assistance, if required. Full payment will start from the fourth month onwards for the services they receive, according to the standard monthly fees for the respective types of home.

Elderly Branch  
Social Welfare Department  
April 2007