

Information Note on Infirmiry Units in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly

(A) Introduction

Infirmiry Units are an integral part of some subvented residential care homes for the elderly with a provision of additional nursing staff. They maintain and support elders who are assessed to be so chronically ill or disabled as to require infirmiry service, so that the elders may remain in their existing homes. They may also help to tide over the elders for admission to medical infirmiries if the elders so wish.

There are currently 19 subvented residential care homes for the elderly providing Infirmiry Units with a total capacity of 580 places.

(B) Nature of Service

Infirmiry Units in residential care homes for the elderly provide constant nursing care, some medical attention/consultation as well as supporting therapeutic services for residents.

(C) Target Group

The target group includes existing residents of subvented residential care homes for the elderly and existing residents of subsidised places in private homes participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme. They are assessed to be so chronically ill or disabled as to require infirmiry service.

(D) Eligibility Criteria

Elders eligible for admission to Infirmiry Units are:

- (a) existing residents of subvented residential care homes for the elderly or subsidised places in private homes participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme;
- (b) certified by Community Geriatric Assessment Teams of the Hospital Authority to be in a condition requiring infirmiry placement. (Cases assessed by Community Geriatric Assessment Teams to be not in need of infirmiry service may also be considered for admission to Infirmiry Units if Minimum Data Set-Home Care assessment results indicate a service option of 'Beyond Nursing Home'); and
- (c) currently not registered for Infirmiry Care Supplement.

(E) Referral Procedures

In respect of residents of subvented residential care homes for the elderly, referrals for admission to Infirmity Units may be made by the social workers of the homes concerned. For residents occupying subsidised places in private homes participating in the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme, referrals may be made by casework service units such as Integrated Family Service Centres and Medical Social Services Units.

(F) Internal Transfer

For eligible elders residing in care and attention placement in subvented residential care homes for the elderly with Infirmity Units, they may be considered for internal transfer to Infirmity Units' placement to avoid unnecessary transfer to another residential care homes for the elderly. These cases have to be registered with the Central Waiting List and the order of transfer is based on their long term care date. The ratio of admission between applicants through internal transfer and other applicants on the Central Waiting List is 1 internal : 2 external.

(G) Discharge policy

Based on the principles of 'ageing in place' and 'continuum of care', elders residing in Infirmity Units may choose to stay, or request transfer to medical infirmity placements provided by Hospital Authority if available.