

Community Care Fund

Brief on the Pilot Scheme on Support for Elderly Persons Discharged from Public Hospitals after Treatment

1. Background and Objectives

The Community Care Fund (CCF) rolled out a Pilot Scheme on Support for Elderly Persons Discharged from Public Hospitals after Treatment in February 2018. The three-year Pilot Scheme supports elderly persons just discharged from public hospitals who are in need of transitional care and support, by providing them with transitional residential care and/or community care and support services for no more than six months in total. It aims at enabling them to continue ageing-in-place in a familiar community after receiving necessary services during the transitional period and preventing their premature long-term institutionalisation in residential care homes for the elderly. The Pilot Scheme, administered by the Social Welfare Department (SWD), started from February 2018 until the end of January 2021.

2. Eligibility Criteria

- The beneficiaries should be:
 - (a) aged 60 or above; and
 - (b) with temporary loss of self-care ability due to illness, and assessed by medical staff of the Hospital Authority (HA) to be in need of transitional care and support (i.e. in need of temporary residential care and/or community care and support services after discharge from hospitals), and not covered under the existing Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients (**Note 1**).

3. Referral Procedures

- The Pilot Scheme is pioneered in ten hospitals (United Christian Hospital, Tseung Kwan O Hospital, Haven of Hope Hospital, Prince of Wales Hospital, Alice Ho Miu Ling Nethersole Hospital, North District Hospital, Shatin Hospital, Tai Po Hospital, Tuen Mun Hospital and Pok Oi Hospital) under three HA clusters (Kowloon East, New Territories East and New Territories West).
- Medical staff of the aforesaid hospitals will make assessment and formulate discharge plans for elderly patients in need so as to facilitate planning for appropriate nursing care, rehabilitation and care support services. Needy elderly persons will subsequently be referred to the Discharge Support Team (DST) of the SWD.
- Social workers of the DST will explain the details of the Pilot Scheme to elderly persons and/or their family members and will also help the elderly persons interested in the Pilot Scheme to submit applications to the CCF Team of the SWD for conducting means tests.

- Eligible elderly persons may receive the CCF-subsidised transitional residential care and/or community care and support services for a total period of no more than six months starting from February 2018 at the earliest.

4. Vetting of Applications

- Applications will be processed by the SWD on the basis of the information submitted by elderly applicants. Upon completion of the vetting procedures, the CCF Team of the SWD will issue the results to the elderly persons in writing through the DST, and notify them of their respective co-payment categories.
- In making an application, the applicant is **not** required to submit relevant proof of income. The CCF Team will conduct random checks in the course of processing applications or releasing subsidy payment to the elderly persons, and the relevant persons will be required to provide detailed information of their financial position together with relevant documents for verification.

5. Service Arrangement and Payment of Subsidy for Services

- The CCF team of the SWD will notify the DST of the corresponding co-payment categories of eligible elderly persons. The DST will then offer professional support to the elderly persons, and assist them in selecting suitable service units of approved service providers and packages of transitional services to meet their needs.
- Payment of subsidy will not be made directly to the elderly persons. Elderly persons participating in the Pilot Scheme are required to make co-payment with amounts determined on the basis of their household income. The Pilot Scheme will adopt six co-payment categories on a sliding scale and the household income level of each category will be determined by the SWD with reference to the relevant Median Monthly Domestic Household Income (MMDHI) published by the Census and Statistics Department (**Note 2 and 3**). After co-payment, all remaining value of the voucher will be paid by the CCF such that the less an elderly person can afford, the more subsidy he/she receives from the CCF. A co-payment table of the Pilot Scheme is set out at **Annex 1**.
- Applications under the Pilot Scheme are made on a household basis with a specific upper limit of average monthly income for different household sizes. For the calculation of household income, please refer to the Guide on Reporting Income at **Annex 2**. The co-payment category will be determined by the SWD according to the monthly household income of the eligible elderly person in the three months prior to the month of application submission.
- For elderly persons receiving transitional residential care services, payment is determined on a daily pro-rata basis. For those receiving community care services, payment is determined on the basis of monthly voucher value. (If an elderly person uses community care services within the first month of discharge from hospital, the voucher value of that month may be determined on the basis of either the minimum monthly voucher value or on a pro-rata basis depending on the number of days of the service used).
- Elderly persons receiving services under the Pilot Scheme are required to settle the relevant service charges under the co-payment category on a monthly basis.
- The SWD will verify the eligibility of the elderly persons for the subsidy on a regular basis. If an elderly beneficiary is deceased or has received government-subsidised community care

services/residential care services for the elderly, he/she no longer meets the eligibility criteria. Such subsidy payment will cease from the month following that in which they become ineligible.

- Elderly persons may submit fresh applications to the DST during the implementation period of the Pilot Scheme if they have again become eligible for the subsidy for whatever reason(s).

6. Responsibilities of the Applicant

- Information provided by the applicant must be true and complete. In case of any change of the relevant information, the applicant must notify the DST or the CCF Team of the SWD as soon as possible. The applicant must provide detailed information for verification when the SWD conducts random checks on his/her case. Any amount verified as overpayment will have to be returned to the CCF Team of the SWD.

7. Enquiries

- Community Care Fund Team, Social Welfare Department

Address : Room 1007, 10/F
Wu Chung House
213 Queen's Road East
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Telephone : 3422 3090

Fax : 3427 9890

Email : ccfenq@swd.gov.hk

Office hours : From 9 am to 6 pm (lunch break from 1 pm to 2 pm), Monday to Friday
(closed on public holidays)

- Discharge Support Team, Social Welfare Department

Address : Room 2311, 23/F
Southorn Centre
130 Hennessey Road
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Telephone : 3107 8037

Fax : 2117 2990

Email : ebenq@swd.gov.hk

Office hours : From 9 am to 5 pm (lunch break from 1 pm to 2 pm), Monday to Friday
for enquiries (closed on public holidays)

- SWD hotline : 2343 2255
- SWD website : www.swd.gov.hk
- CCF website : www.communitycarefund.hk

Notes

- Note 1: At present, the Government, in collaboration with the HA, implements the Integrated Discharge Support Programme for Elderly Patients (IDSP). The service targets are mainly elderly persons newly discharged from HA hospitals who have been assessed by HA medical staff to be at high risk of unplanned re-admission to hospital. The programme provides a range of support services (including discharge planning, transitional rehabilitation service, home care services and carer training) for these elderly persons, aiming at reducing their unplanned hospital re-admission risk.
- Note 2: Household member(s) include the applicant and his/her father, mother, son(s), daughter(s), husband or wife residing with him/her in Hong Kong before his/her admission to a public hospital. Legally recognised adoptive parents/children or illegitimate children with proof of parentage are also included. Such household member(s) must be Hong Kong resident(s).
- Note 3: The monthly household income limit is set with reference to the relevant MMDHI published in the latest Quarterly Report on General Household Survey by the Census and Statistics Department. Monthly household income, which refers to the income of the applicant and household members residing with the applicant in Hong Kong as mentioned in Note 2, is determined by the average monthly income of the three months prior to the month of application submission and includes the following items:
- (i) Employment earnings: salary, double pay/leave pay, work allowance, bonuses/prize/commission/tip/contract gratuity, income from rendering services, business profits, etc.; and
 - (ii) Other income: contributions from children, financial assistance from relatives/friends, alimony, monthly pension/widow's and orphans' payments or pensions, investment profits, interest income from fixed deposits, dividends, rental income, etc.

For income not paid on a monthly basis, e.g. double pay, bonus, contract gratuity, etc. it should be apportioned over the period concerned.

Reportable income **excludes** employee's mandatory contributions to the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF) scheme, financial assistance provided by the Government, charitable donations and subsidies from other assistance programmes under the CCF, etc.

Community Care Fund
Pilot Scheme on Support for Elderly Persons Discharged from Public Hospitals after Treatment
Co-payment Categories (with effective from 1.4.2019)

Co-payment Category	I (Designated for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) recipients)	II	III	IV	V	VI ^{Note 1}
Transitional residential care services ^{Note 2}						
Co-payment %	5%	8%	12%	16%	25%	40%
Household size ^{Note 3}	CSSA recipients	75% of relevant MMDHI	>75% - 100% of relevant MMDHI	>100% - 150% of relevant MMDHI	>150% - 175% of relevant MMDHI	>175% of relevant MMDHI
1		≤ \$8,250	\$8,251 - \$11,000	\$11,001 - \$16,500	\$16,501 - \$19,250	>\$19,250
2		50% of relevant MMDHI	>50% - 75% of relevant MMDHI	>75% - 125% of relevant MMDHI	>125% - 150% of relevant MMDHI	>150% of relevant MMDHI
3		≤ \$10,500	\$10,501 - \$15,750	\$15,751 - \$26,250	\$26,251 - \$31,500	>\$31,500
4		≤ \$15,900	\$15,901 - \$23,850	\$23,851 - \$39,750	\$39,751 - \$47,700	>\$47,700
5 ^{Note 4}		≤ \$21,700	\$21,701 - \$32,550	\$32,551 - \$54,250	\$54,251 - \$65,100	>\$65,100
5 ^{Note 4}		≤ \$26,600	\$26,601 - \$39,900	\$39,901 - \$66,500	\$66,501 - \$79,800	>\$79,800
Transitional residential care services voucher value ^{Note 5}	Co-payment amounts for transitional residential care services vouchers					
\$13,287	\$664	\$1,063	\$1,594	\$2,126	\$3,322	\$5,315

Note 1 Also applicable to applicants who do not wish to be subject to means test.

Note 2 The DST will arrange transitional residential care services according to the needs of the service users.

Note 3 The corresponding figures are determined on the basis of relevant MMDHI published in the Quarterly Report on General Household Survey for the third quarter of 2018.

Note 4 The corresponding figures for household size of 6 or above will also be determined on the basis of relevant MMDHI published by the Census and Statistics Department.

Note 5 The voucher value will be adjusted in accordance with that under the Pilot Scheme on Residential Care Service Voucher for the Elderly.

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Pilot Scheme on Support for Elderly Persons Discharged from Public Hospitals after Treatment
Co-payment Categories (with effective from 1.4.2019)

Co-payment Category	I (Designated for CSSA) recipients)	II	III	IV	V	VI ^{Note 1}
Community care services ^{Note 2}						
Co-payment %	5%	8%	12%	16%	25%	40%
Household size ^{Note 3}	CSSA recipients	75% of relevant MMDHI	>75% - 100% of relevant MMDHI	>100% - 150% of relevant MMDHI	>150% - 175% of relevant MMDHI	>175% of relevant MMDHI
1		≤ \$8,250	\$8,251 - \$11,000	\$11,001 - \$16,500	\$16,501 - \$19,250	>\$19,250
2		50% of relevant MMDHI	>50% - 75% of relevant MMDHI	>75% - 125% of relevant MMDHI	>125% - 150% of relevant MMDHI	>150% of relevant MMDHI
3		≤ \$10,500	\$10,501 - \$15,750	\$15,751 - \$26,250	\$26,251 - \$31,500	>\$31,500
4		≤ \$15,900	\$15,901 - \$23,850	\$23,851 - \$39,750	\$39,751 - \$47,700	>\$47,700
5 ^{Note 4}		≤ \$21,700	\$21,701 - \$32,550	\$32,551 - \$54,250	\$54,251 - \$65,100	>\$65,100
5 ^{Note 4}		≤ \$26,600	\$26,601 - \$39,900	\$39,901 - \$66,500	\$66,501 - \$79,800	>\$79,800
Community care services voucher value ^{Note 5}	Co-payment Amounts for Community care services vouchers					
\$9,600	\$480	\$765	\$1,150	\$1,535	\$2,400	\$3,840
\$8,150	\$405	\$650	\$975	\$1,305	\$2,035	\$3,260
\$7,260	\$365	\$580	\$870	\$1,160	\$1,815	\$2,900
\$5,810	\$290	\$465	\$695	\$930	\$1,450	\$2,320
\$4,020	\$200	\$320	\$480	\$645	\$1,005	\$1,605

Note 1 Also applicable to applicants who do not wish to be subject to means test.

Note 2 The DST will arrange community care services according to the needs of the service users.

Note 3 The corresponding figures are determined on the basis of relevant MMDHI published in the Quarterly Report on General Household Survey for the third quarter of 2018.

Note 4 The corresponding figures for household size of 6 or above will also be determined on the basis of relevant MMDHI published by the Census and Statistics Department.

Note 5 The voucher value will be adjusted in accordance with that under the Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly. If elderly persons use transitional community care and support services within the first month after their discharge from hospitals, the community care services voucher value of that month can be calculated on a pro rata basis depending on the number of days of the service used.

**Community Care Fund
Pilot Scheme on Support for Elderly Persons
Discharged from Public Hospitals after Treatment
Guidelines on Reporting Income**

1. Income reportable period:

Monthly household income refers to the average monthly income of the applicant and his/her household member(s) residing with him/her in Hong Kong before his/her admission to a public hospital (please refer to the **Brief** for the definition of household members) for the three months prior to the month of application submission. For example, if an applicant submits his/her application in March 2019, the actual income received by the applicant and his/her household member(s) residing with him/her in Hong Kong before his/her admission to a public hospital (who must be Hong Kong resident(s)) from December 2018 to February 2019 will be counted as household income. Income received outside the reportable period will be excluded. Examples of reportable period are set out below:

Month of application submission	March 2019	April 2019	May 2019
Income reportable period	1 December 2018 to 28 February 2019	1 January 2019 to 31 March 2019	1 February 2019 to 30 April 2019

2. Reportable income:

1. Employment earnings: salary, double pay/leave pay, work allowance, bonuses/prize/commission/tip/contract gratuity, income from rendering services, business profits, etc.; and
2. Other income: contributions from children, financial assistance from relatives/friends, alimony, monthly pension/widows' and orphans' payments or pensions, investment profits, interest income from fixed deposits, dividends, rental income, etc.

For income not paid on a monthly basis, e.g. double pay, bonus, contract gratuity, etc., it should be apportioned over the period concerned.

Reportable income **excludes** employee's mandatory contributions to the MPF scheme (i.e. the 5% mandatory contributions made by employees to an MPF scheme), financial assistance provided by the Government, charitable donations and subsidies from other assistance programmes under the CCF, etc.

3. Calculation of income:

1. **Regular monthly income:** the average income for the three months prior to the month of application submission is calculated by dividing the total income received in the 3-month reportable period by 3.
2. **Regular periodic income/irregular income:** the income received within one of the months during the reportable period is calculated by dividing the total income received by length of the period covered. Income received outside the above period is not counted.
3. Income in foreign currency is calculated at the exchange rate of the currency to Hong Kong Dollars prevailing on the date of receipt of such income.

4. Examples of income calculation:

An applicant, CHAN Tai-man, is now receiving treatment in a public hospital. He resided with his wife, son and younger sister before his admission to the public hospital. As CHAN Tai-man's younger sister is not defined as a household member under the Pilot Scheme, **the number of household members** of CHAN Tai-man, including himself and those **residing with him in Hong Kong, is 3.**

Assuming that CHAN Tai-man submits his application on **15 March 2019**, the income **reportable period should be from December 2018 to February 2019.** The table below sets out the household income of CHAN Tai-man during the period:

	December 2018	January 2019	February 2019
Chan Tai-man	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-year dividends of HK\$1,200 received from Company A Contribution of HK\$500 from children/relatives living apart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half-yearly interest payment of RMB ¥ 1,000 received from Renminbi fixed deposit Contribution of HK\$500 from children/relatives living apart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution of HK\$500 from children/relatives living apart
	<p>Average monthly income</p> <p>= dividend income (average monthly value of dividends from Company A) + fixed deposit income (average monthly value of interest payments from Renminbi fixed deposit) + monthly contribution of HK\$500 from children/relatives living apart</p> <p>= (HK\$1,200 ÷ 12) + [interest from fixed deposit RMB ¥1,000 x 1.2 (assuming an exchange rate of RMB ¥1 = HK\$1.2 on the day of receipt) ÷ 6] + [(HK\$500 + HK\$500 + HK\$500) ÷ 3]</p> <p>= HK\$100 + HK\$200 + HK\$500</p> <p>= <u>HK\$800</u></p>		
Wife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rental income: HK\$1,500 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rental income: HK\$1,500 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rental income: HK\$1,500 Profit of HK\$2,400 from selling shares of Company B
	<p>Average monthly income</p> <p>= average monthly rental income + average monthly value of profit from selling shares of company B</p> <p>= [(HK\$1,500 + HK\$1,500 + HK\$1,500)] ÷ 3 + (HK\$2,400 ÷ 3)</p> <p>= HK\$1,500 + HK\$800</p> <p>= <u>HK\$2,300</u></p>		
Son	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-time salary: HK\$8,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-time salary: HK\$7,700; Year-end bonus: HK\$6,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-time salary: HK\$8,000
	<p>Average monthly income</p> <p>= average monthly value of salary + average monthly value of year-end bonus</p> <p>= [(HK\$8,000 + HK\$7,700 + HK\$8,000) ÷ 3] + [HK\$6,000 ÷ 12]</p> <p>= HK\$ 7,900 + HK\$ 500</p> <p>= <u>HK\$8,400</u></p>		

Total average monthly income of the applicant (Chan Tai-man) and household members residing with him:

= average monthly income of Chan Tai-man (\$800) + average monthly income of his wife (\$2,300) + average monthly income of his son (\$8,400)

= **HK\$11,500**

Note: The SWD will conduct random checks in the course of processing the application or releasing subsidy payment. The applicant must retain all relevant supporting documents (including detailed information/proof of income of the applicant and his/her household members residing with him/her in Hong Kong for the three months prior to the month of application submission) for the purpose of comprehensive assessment. If the applicant cannot provide the SWD with the required information for verification, the SWD shall have the right to disqualify the applicant and/or request the applicant's full or partial repayment of the subsidy. Any deliberate provision of false information or omission of information in order to obtain the subsidy under the Pilot Scheme by deception is a criminal offence. In addition to rendering the applicant ineligible for the subsidy under the Pilot Scheme, he/she is liable to prosecution and, on conviction, imprisonment for a maximum of 14 years under the Theft Ordinance (Cap. 210).