

Public hospital arrangements on hypertension drug prescription

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hospital Authority (HA) spokesperson today (June 1) announced the arrangements to be made in public hospitals starting from this month to progressively substitute the anti-hypertensive drug Adalat Retard 20mg to ensure appropriate medication treatment for patients in need.

The spokesperson explained, "The HA was notified earlier by Bayer HealthCare Limited that the supply of Adalat Retard 20mg to Hong Kong will be discontinued upon the completion of the supply contract to the HA in September 2019. Meanwhile, the HA was also informed of unstable supply very soon.

"To ensure that patients' medication treatment would not be affected, the HA convened an expert panel meeting to examine and recommend the substitution drugs with equivalent therapeutic effects. A co-ordinated approach to switch to alternative drug treatment was confirmed with the specialties concerned.

"The Clinical Co-ordinating Committees of the specialties concerned agreed to progressively start prescribing to patients other anti-hypertensive drugs in the HA Drug Formulary with equivalent therapeutic effects as those of Adalat Retard 20mg beginning this month."

The spokesperson added that there are now 120 000 general outpatients, specialist outpatients and inpatients being prescribed with Adalat Retard 20mg. However, there is no immediate need for these patients to replace the drugs on hand. Doctors will prescribe the substitution drugs, such as amlodipine and felodipine, according to patients' clinical conditions during their next consultation for continuous blood pressure control.

"The HA has informed front-line staff of the arrangements and prescription choices for their consideration. Currently, the supply and the stock of all other anti-hypertensive drugs remain normal and is sufficient to cover patient prescriptions," the spokesperson remarked.

Thirty-six immigration offenders

arrested

The Immigration Department (ImmD) mounted a series of territory-wide anti-illegal worker operations, including operations codenamed "Twilight" and joint operations with the Hong Kong Police Force and the Labour Department codenamed "Champion", from May 28 to 31. A total of 28 illegal workers and eight suspected employers were arrested.

During operation "Twilight", ImmD Task Force officers raided 18 target locations including restaurants, a bar, retail shops, a garage, a recycling shop, industrial buildings and residential flats. A total of 23 illegal workers and six employers were arrested. The illegal workers comprised 17 men and six women, aged 25 to 55. Among them, two men and one woman were holders of recognisance forms, which prohibit them from taking any employment. One man and one woman were suspected of using and being in possession of forged Hong Kong identity cards. Meanwhile, four men and two women, aged 25 to 54, were suspected of employing the illegal workers.

Furthermore, during operation "Champion", enforcement officers raided 47 target locations in Sham Shui Po, Cheung Sha Wan and Tsuen Wan including restaurants, food stalls, warehouses and industrial buildings. Five illegal workers and two employers were arrested. The illegal workers comprised three men and two women, aged 26 to 47. Among them, two men were holders of a recognisance forms, which prohibit them from taking any employment. Meanwhile, one man and one woman, aged 37 and 53, were suspected of employing the illegal workers.

"Any person who contravenes a condition of stay in force in respect of him shall be guilty of an offence. Also, visitors are not allowed to take employment in Hong Kong, whether paid or unpaid, without the permission of the Director of Immigration. Offenders are liable to prosecution and upon conviction face a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to two years' imprisonment. Aiders and abettors are also liable to prosecution and penalties," an ImmD spokesman said.

The spokesman warned that, as stipulated in section 38AA of the Immigration Ordinance, illegal immigrants or people who are the subject of a removal order or a deportation order are prohibited from taking any employment, whether paid or unpaid, or establishing or joining in any business. Offenders are liable upon conviction to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and up to three years' imprisonment. The Court of Appeal has issued a guideline ruling that a sentence of 15 months' imprisonment should be applied in such cases. It is an offence to use or possess a forged Hong Kong identity card or a Hong Kong identity card related to another person. Offenders are liable to prosecution and a maximum penalty of a \$100,000 fine and up to 10 years' imprisonment.

The spokesman reiterated that it is a serious offence to employ people who are not lawfully employable. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for

three years and a fine of \$350,000. The High Court has laid down sentencing guidelines that the employer of an illegal worker should be given an immediate custodial sentence. According to court sentencing, employers must take all practicable steps to determine whether a person is lawfully employable prior to employment. Apart from inspecting a prospective employee's identity card, the employer has the explicit duty to make enquiries regarding the person and ensure that the answers would not cast any reasonable doubt concerning the lawful employability of the person. The court will not accept failure to do so as a defence in proceedings. It is also an offence if an employer fails to inspect the job seeker's valid travel document if the job seeker does not have a Hong Kong permanent identity card. The maximum penalty for failing to inspect such a document is imprisonment for one year and a fine of \$150,000.

Under the existing mechanism, the ImmD will, as a standard procedure, conduct initial screening of vulnerable persons, including illegal workers, illegal immigrants, sex workers and foreign domestic helpers, who are arrested during any operation with a view to ascertaining whether they are trafficking in persons (TIP) victims. When any TIP indicator is revealed in the initial screening, the officers will conduct a full debriefing and identification by using a standardised checklist to ascertain the presence of TIP elements, such as threat and coercion in the recruitment phase and the nature of exploitation. Identified TIP victims will be provided with various forms of support and assistance, including urgent interference, medical services, counselling, shelter, temporary accommodation and other supporting services. The ImmD calls on TIP victims to report crimes to the relevant departments.

Appointment made to Appeal Board on Public Meetings and Processions

The Government announced today (June 1) the re-appointment of Mr Christopher Chan Yiu-chong as Deputy Chairman of the Appeal Board on Public Meetings and Processions made by the Chief Executive under section 43(3) of the Public Order Ordinance (Cap 245). The above appointment will be effective from August 1, 2018, for a term of two years and was also gazetted today.

The Appeal Board comprises a Chairman, two Deputy Chairmen and 13 members, all of whom are not public officers. The Appeal Board is responsible for considering appeals against the decision of the Commissioner of Police to prohibit a public meeting, object to a public procession or impose or amend conditions on a public meeting or public procession under sections 9, 14, 11 or 15 of the Public Order Ordinance respectively. The Appeal Board is empowered to confirm, reverse or vary the decision being appealed against.

Communications Authority press release

The following is issued on behalf of the Communications Authority:

This press release summarises the decisions of the Communications Authority (CA) following its 75th meeting held in May 2018:

Broadcast Complaints

In respect of two complaint cases involving licensees' breaches of the provisions relating to indirect advertising in the Generic Code of Practice on Television Programme Standards (TV Programme Code):

(a) for the first complaint case concerning the references to and/or exposure of a mobile app service in five television programmes, namely, "Big Big Kids Awards 2017", "Big Big Channel What's In Store", "The Big Big Channel Nite" and "Big Big Channel Mid-Autumn Hasty Party" broadcast on the Jade Channel of Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB) in June, July and October 2017, and in "Scoop", broadcast on the Jade Channel of TVB on June 22 and 23, 2017 and rerun on the Jade Catch-Up Channel of PCCW Media Limited (now TV), the CA decided that:

(i) a financial penalty of \$300,000 should be imposed on TVB for breaching the relevant provisions in the TV Programme Code in respect of the broadcast of the four programmes "Big Big Kids Awards 2017", "Scoop" (two episodes), "Big Big Channel What's In Store" and "The Big Big Channel Nite" collectively;

(ii) in respect of the broadcast of the programme "Big Big Channel Mid-Autumn Hasty Party", TVB should be seriously warned to observe more closely the relevant provisions in the TV Programme Code;

(iii) in respect of the broadcast of the programme "Scoop", now TV should be advised to observe more closely the relevant provisions in the TV Programme Code; and

(b) for the second complaint case concerning two television programme promos broadcast on the Jade Channel of TVB, namely, the promo for "TVB 50th Anniversary Gala" on November 19, 2017, and the promo for "TV Awards Presentation 2017" on January 21, 2018, the CA decided that TVB should be strongly advised to observe more closely the relevant provisions in the TV Programme Code.

Details of the above cases are at:

https://www.coms-auth.hk/filemanager/en/content_713/appx_20180601_en.pdf.

The above complaints concerned indirect advertising. While the CA is

conducting a review of the regulation of indirect advertising, the process is still ongoing. Meanwhile, licensees are obliged to continue to comply with the applicable provisions in the prevailing Codes of Practice, unless and until any changes that may be made to them consequent to the review take effect.

EMSD and Guangzhou Industry and Trade Technician College sign memorandum of co-operation to enhance E&M training (with photos)

The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) and the Guangzhou Industry and Trade Technician College (GITTC) today (June 1) signed a memorandum of co-operation to strengthen their collaboration in the training of electrical and mechanical (E&M) technicians.

Last year, the EMSD for the first time conducted training and experience sharing sessions with the GITTC for refrigeration and air conditioning (R&AC) technician trainees. Two of them took part in the categories of electrical installation and R&AC at the WorldSkills Competition in Abu Dhabi later that year and achieved satisfactory results.

In order to promote the professional technical standards of R&AC to attract young people to join the E&M industry, the EMSD signed a memorandum of co-operation with the GITTC to foster the manpower training and exchanges of both sides regarding R&AC techniques, with a view to enhancing the professional standards of EMSD trainees and the entire industry. In addition, both sides will enhance their experience sharing after taking part in the R&AC category of the WorldSkills Competition so as to prepare for the next contest.

Addressing the signing ceremony of the memorandum, the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services, Mr Alfred Sit, said that the GITTC has all along spared no effort in the training of E&M personnel. He said he hoped that both sides could strengthen collaboration in enhancing the professional standards of E&M personnel and also in training talents for the development of the region.

