

Yan Chai Hospital announces sentinel event of suspected inpatient suicide

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Yan Chai Hospital (YCH) announced a sentinel event of suspected inpatient suicide today (June 22):

A 79-year-old male patient was admitted to a medical ward of YCH on June 17 due to bilateral lower limb oedema. The patient had underlying chronic diseases. The patient was not at risk of suicide during admission screening, and his clinical condition was stable along.

The patient was last seen by healthcare staff resting in bed at 11.30pm on June 21 in the cubicle. At 11.40pm, the patient was found with suspected suicide. He was found unconscious, hanging his neck with a rope connected with his own bed hanger. Healthcare staff performed resuscitation for the patient immediately, informed the patient's family and reported the incident to the Police. The patient was certified dead at 12.34am today.

The hospital was saddened by the incident and expressed deep condolences to the family of the patient. The hospital will provide assistance to the family as required and will fully co-operate with the Police in the investigation.

The hospital is very concerned about the incident which was classified as a sentinel event. The incident has been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office via the Advance Incident Reporting System. A root cause analysis panel will be formed to investigate the incident. The incident has been reported to the coroner.