



For immediate release

“Transcatheter Cardiovascular Interventions Subsidy Scheme” by HKSH and LKSF remains open for heart disease patients

(31 July 2020 - Hong Kong) The “Transcatheter Cardiovascular Interventions Subsidy Scheme”, jointly launched by the Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital’s Cardiology Centre and the Li Ka Shing Foundation since mid 2018. Starting from the original funding of HK\$10 million, the Foundation further injected HK\$10 million to the Scheme, which is still open for application.

39 patients were benefited from the subsidies so far. The Scheme offers subsidies to cover surgical expenses for patients suffering from four types of heart diseases, namely blocked coronary arteries, severe aortic stenosis, leaky mitral or tricuspid valve and non-valvular atrial fibrillation, so that they can receive surgeries such as Coronary Stenting Procedure, Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI), Transcatheter Mitral/Tricuspid Valve Repair (Clip) and Left Atrial Appendage Occlusion (LAAO). At present, patients (except those with CSSA) who underwent these four types of surgery in public hospitals are required to pay for the cost of related surgical instruments, such as heart stents and valves.

Noting that some heart disease patients may have been affected by the current COVID-19 situation, Dr. Joseph CHAN, Deputy Medical Superintendent of the Hospital wishes to remind patients of the importance of timely and proper treatment and the “Transcatheter Cardiovascular Interventions Subsidy Scheme” remains open for application to patients in need, with the remaining balance of around HK\$12 million.

“It is undesirable to see that under the recent situation of COVID-19, some patients who are unfamiliar with the symptoms of heart diseases may delay consultation and miss the optimal treatment time,” Dr. CHAN said.

“The average subsidy of each patient ranged from HK\$120,000 to over HK\$500,000, depending on individual’s condition. Under the Scheme, the Foundation covers the cost of the procedures including that of the surgical implants, whilst the Hospital and the attending doctors will provide concessionary rates in hospital fees and consultation charges, leaving only part of the operation expenses to be borne by the patients,” Dr. CHAN noted.

For example, the medical cost for a patient undergoing coronary stenting procedure, amounts to HK\$60,000-100,000 with scheme subsidies. The cost covers surgical equipment and materials as well as the coronary artery stents and valves.

Applications for the Scheme will be vetted by experts at Cardiology Centre based on the patients’ condition and the anticipated improvements in the quality of life after operation. Referrals from other cardiologists will also be considered. Applications and enquiries can be made at LKSFSS-enquiry@hksh.com

Apart from structural heart disease surgeries, coronary stenting procedures, which accounted for about 60 percent of the total cases handled under the Scheme, were performed on patients suffering from chronic total occlusion (CTO), left main artery stenosis, calcified lesions and triple vessel diseases. One of the most complicated cases involved an 80-plus years old patient with major visceral organs mirrored from normal positions congenitally, who received the first minimally invasive TAVI in Hong Kong. A cross-disciplinary team comprising a cardiologist, a cardiothoracic surgeon, a cardiac anaesthetist and a vascular surgeon was arranged to perform the surgery. The patient has recovered in good condition after the surgery with improved quality of life.

- End -



Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital

Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital is one of the leading private hospitals in Hong Kong. With the motto “Quality in Service Excellence in Care”, the Hospital is committed to serving the public as well as promoting medical education and research.

About the Li Ka Shing Foundation

The Li Ka Shing Foundation was established in 1980 to work on education, medical services and research initiatives. To date, Mr Li has invested over HK\$27 billion across 27 countries and regions, with about 80% of the projects within the Greater China region. In 2006, Mr Li described his philanthropic effort as akin to having another son in the family. He called for a paradigm shift in our Asian culture of giving, through apportioning more of our wealth and means towards social capital so that we could bring forth great hope and promises for the future.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Ms. Mandy SO Tel: 3156 8077

Ms. Tracy CHUNG Tel: 3156 8079

Email: media@cad.hksh.com

Photo:

1. A cross-disciplinary team from HKSH Cardiology Centre and Cardiac Catheterization & Intervention Centre performed surgical structural heart diseases procedures in Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital.

