PRESS RELEASE

<u>Promotion of integrated healthcare for Hong Kong and Macau residents in the Greater Bay Area during COVID-19</u>

(Hong Kong, 21 June 2023) – **During the pandemic, many permanent residents of Hong Kong living in Guangdong Province were unable to return home for their clinic appointments under the Hong Kong Hospital Authority (HA) due to quarantine and travel restrictions between the city and mainland China. In November 2020, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) appointed The University of Hong Kong–Shenzhen Hospital (HKU-SZH) to initiate and operate a HA special support scheme under which such patients are subsidised to use the clinical services available at HKU-SZH to meet their healthcare needs. Recently, a research team from The University of Hong Kong and HKU-SZH analysed the implementation of this project and discussed the significance of and impact on cross-border medical services in the integration of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).**

The study revealed the challenges in the connection and integration programme, including language barrier, varying medical training and backgrounds, differences in culture and governance, and a shortage of human resources and funding. Reporting on the analyses of the significance and impact of cross-border medical services on the integration of the GBA, this study focused on the latest policies and measures of the HKSAR Government's Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme HKU-SZH pilot programme (2015), the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Medical Specialist Training Centre project (2019), the 'Hong Kong and Macau Medicines and Devices policy' (2021), and the recognition of medical qualifications of Hong Kong doctors (2021). Findings indicated that from 1 January to 31 December 2021, there were 28 386 attendances or patient episodes at HKU-SZH–HA clinics. The most utilised clinics were the chronic disease clinic (17 414 attendances) served by the family medicine physicians, followed by the medical specialty clinics (7810 attendances). In addition, feedback from doctors and patients of HKU-SZH–HA clinics was mostly positive.

This study pointed out that the fifth wave of COVID-19 in Hong Kong accelerated the pace of forming healthcare connections and partnerships between Hong Kong and mainland China. The research team hopes that the integration of medical services in Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Macau can increase cross-border connection and better promote the grand development of the GBA.

The article "Promoting integrated healthcare for Hong Kong and Macau residents in the Greater Bay Area during the COVID-19 pandemic" was published in the *Hong Kong Medical Journal*. https://doi.org/10.12809/hkmj2210229

新聞稿

新冠肺炎疫情促進粵港澳大灣區的綜合醫療發展

（香港，2023 年 6 月 21 日）— 新冠肺炎疫情期間，由於香港與內地之間的檢疫和旅遊限制，許多居住在廣東省的港籍慢性病患者無法返回港到醫院管理局（醫管局）轄下醫療機構接受診治。**2020 年 11 月，香港特別行政區政府（香港特區政府）委託香港大學深圳醫院（港大深圳醫院）實施醫管局特別支援計劃，以便上述患者在疫情期間可在該院獲得受資助的診症服務。香港大學及港大深圳醫院的研究團隊近期針對該專案的實施進行分析，並探討跨境醫療服務對粵港澳大灣區（大灣區）一體化的意義和影響。**

該研究討論了跨境醫療融合面臨的挑戰，包括語言障礙、醫療培訓和背景差異、文化和機制區別及人力和資金短缺問題。研究報告重點分析了香港特區政府長者醫療券港大深圳醫院試點計劃（2015 年）、深港醫學專科培訓中心專案（2019 年）、「港澳藥械通」（2021 年）和港籍醫生正高級職稱認定（2021 年）等跨境醫療銜接舉措的意義和影響。研究結果顯示，2021 年 1 月 1 日至 12 月 31 日期間共有 28 386 人次使用港大深圳醫院—醫管局診所，使用程度最高的是由家庭醫生主理的慢性病診所（17 414 人次），其次是各個專科診所（7810 人次）。此外，港大深圳醫院—醫管局診所的醫生及病人的評價大致正面。

研究報告指出，香港第五波新冠肺炎疫情促進了香港與內地醫療衞生交流和合作步伐。研究團隊期望透過香港、深圳和澳門醫療服務融合增強跨境連繫，從而推動大灣區的整體發展。

詳細內容可參閱原文《在新冠肺炎疫情期間促進粵港澳醫療衞生融合》。

Source: Pearl MC Pai, Joe KM Fan, William CW Wong, et al. Promoting integrated healthcare for Hong Kong and Macau residents in the Greater Bay Area during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hong Kong Med J 2023;29:268-72. https://doi.org/10.12809/hkmj2210229.

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