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23 December 2022

Mr Simon CHAN Hung-lit, President
Hong Kong Former Senior Civil Servants Association
Unit 416, 4/F, Sino Industrial Plaza
9 Kai Cheung Road
Kowloon Bay
Kowloon

Dear Mr CHAN,

Reimbursement of Medical Expenses in respect of Positron Emission Tomography Scan Service

I write to inform you about the relevant arrangements on applying to the Department of Health (DH) for reimbursement of medical expenses, following the implementation of the new service arrangement of Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan service of the Hospital Authority (HA) starting from **1 January 2023**.

HA will convert all HA PET service to patients who fulfil the specific clinical indications of HA PET “standard service” only with effect from 1 January 2023. Therefore, starting from the above date, HA PET Centres would no longer provide PET scan service for patients whose diagnosis falls outside the specific clinical indications. If the patients are diagnosed as not meeting the specific clinical indications of HA PET “standard service”, but the HA attending doctor has confirmed that the patients concerned need to undergo PET scan due to their medical needs, they will be referred to receive the related services in the private sector.

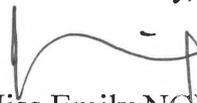
Following the implementation of the new service arrangement on 1 January 2023, civil service eligible persons (CSEPs) can continue to receive the PET scan service in HA PET Centres if they fulfil the specific clinical indications of HA PET “standard service” as prescribed by the attending HA doctors. The patients concerned are not required to pay any fee for the service other than

hospital maintenance fee (if any). For CSEPs who do not fulfil the specific clinical indications of HA PET “standard service”, but are prescribed PET scan service and confirmed the need to procure such service outside HA by the HA attending doctor due to their medical needs, they may apply to DH for reimbursement of medical expenses incurred after receiving the above-mentioned referred PET scan service in accordance with the prevailing policy on reimbursement of medical expenses. Details of reimbursement of medical expenses are available on the Civil Service Bureau Homepage (<https://www.csb.gov.hk/english/admin/benefits/63.html>). **CSEPs’ particular attention is drawn that the medical expenses if paid by health care voucher issued under the “Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme”, wholly or partly, will not be reimbursed by DH.**

We have informed colleagues of the details of the above new service arrangement and the related reimbursement arrangement of medical expenses through bureaux/departments vide a memo dated 23 December 2022, a copy of which is attached for your information.

It would be most helpful if your Association could help disseminate the above information to your members. If you have any enquiries on the above, you are welcome to contact us at 2810 3079.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Emily NG)

for Secretary for the Civil Service

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MEMO

<i>From</i>	Secretary for the Civil Service	<i>To</i>	Permanent Secretaries Heads of Department
<i>Ref.</i>	(1) in PC/700/000/133 Pt. 7	<i>(Attn.:</i>	Departmental Secretaries)
<i>Tel. No.</i>	2810 3083	<i>Your Ref.</i>	in
<i>Fax. No.</i>	2501 0749	<i>Dated</i>	
<i>Email</i>	csbcos@csb.gov.hk	<i>Fax. No.</i>	
<i>Date</i>	23 December 2022	<i>Total Pages</i>	5

**Reimbursement of Medical Expenses in respect of
Positron Emission Tomography Scan Service**

With effect from 1 January 2023, the Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Centres under Hospital Authority (HA) will only provide PET scan service to patients who can fulfil certain clinical indications as specified by HA. Other patients with medical needs confirmed by the attending HA doctor will be referred to receive PET scan service in the private sector. Civil service eligible persons (CSEPs)¹ who meet the specified conditions may apply to the Department of Health (DH) for reimbursement of the medical expenses after receiving the above-mentioned referred PET scan service. This memo serves to inform civil servants of the arrangements for the above reimbursement of medical expenses. Please bring this memo to the attention of all staff in your department who are eligible for civil service medical benefits.

Reimbursement Policy

2. Under the existing policy, save for the charges applicable to hospital maintenance, dentures and dental appliances as provided for in the Civil Service Regulations (CSRs), CSEPs are entitled to free medical advice and treatment, X-ray examinations and medicines provided by DH or HA. If the attending DH/HA doctor certifies that the prescribed drugs or equipment, etc. are necessary for the patient, and such items are not available in DH/HA or are chargeable by HA, CSEPs may apply to DH for reimbursement of the expenses of the items concerned. Details of reimbursement and direct payment arrangement are set out in Civil Service Bureau

¹ Civil service eligible persons consist of:

- (a) monthly paid civil servants and their eligible dependants;
- (b) retired civil servants living in Hong Kong and in receipt of a pension or an annual allowance and their eligible dependants living in Hong Kong;
- (c) eligible dependants of civil servants killed on duty and living in Hong Kong;
- (d) eligible dependants living in Hong Kong and in receipt of a pension under the Widows and Orphans Pension Scheme or the Surviving Spouses' and Children's Pension Scheme following the death of civil servants while in service or after retirement; and
- (e) other persons who are eligible for civil service medical benefits by way of their terms of appointment.

(CSB) Circular No. 2/2013 “Arrangements for Reimbursement/Direct Payment of Medical Expenses” and CSB Homepage (<https://www.csb.gov.hk/english/admin/benefits/63.html>).

Existing Service Arrangement

3. Currently, there are three PET centres in HA which are situated at Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH), Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital (PYNEH) and Tuen Mun Hospital (TMH) respectively. At present, HA’s PET scan service is provided to patients as follows –

Service Type	Patient Type	Fee	
		General Public	CSEPs
Standard Service	Patients fulfilling specific clinical indications	Covered under HA standard fees and charges	Free of charge for outpatients, while PET scan service for inpatients is covered by the hospital maintenance fee according to the fee schedule set out in the CSR Annex 6.1
Non-standard Service	Patients who do not fulfil the specific clinical indications, but are prescribed PET scan service by the HA attending doctor due to their medical needs	Self-financing item	Settled by DH via direct payment to HA (i.e. CSEPs do not have to pay out of their pockets)

4. Under the existing arrangement, HA attending doctors will make an appointment for patients to receive the “standard service” or “non-standard service” of PET scan according to the patients’ medical condition.

The New Service Arrangement

5. To allow room for expansion of HA PET “standard service” with more evidence-based clinical indications to ensure the coverage of patients in need, HA will convert all HA PET service to patients who fulfil the specific clinical indications of

HA PET “standard service” only with effect from 1 January 2023. Therefore, starting from the above date, the three PET centres would no longer provide PET scan service for patients whose diagnosis falls outside the specific clinical indications.

Reimbursement of Medical Expenses for Private PET Scan Service

6. Following the implementation of the new service arrangement on 1 January 2023, CSEPs can continue to receive the PET scan service in QEH/PYNEH/TMH if they fulfil the specific clinical indications of HA PET “standard service” as prescribed by the attending HA doctors. The patients concerned are not required to pay any fee for the service other than hospital maintenance fee (if any). If the patients are diagnosed as not meeting the specific clinical indications of HA PET “standard service”, but the HA attending doctor has confirmed that they need to undergo PET scan due to their medical needs, they will be referred to receive the related services in the private sector. The following table sets out the new service arrangement –

Service Type	Patient Type	Fee	
		General Public	CSEPs
Standard Service	Patients fulfilling specific clinical indications	Covered under HA standard fees and charges	Free of charge for outpatients, while PET scan service for inpatients is covered by the hospital maintenance fee according to the fee schedule set out in the CSR Annex 6.1
Referral to Private Service outside HA	Patients who do not fulfil the specific clinical indications, but are prescribed PET scan service by the HA attending doctor due to their medical needs	Self-financing item	Reimbursable item

7. Upon implementation of the new service arrangement on 1 January 2023, HA will only book PET scan appointments for patients fulfilling the specific clinical indications of HA PET “standard service”. For CSEPs who do not fulfil the specific clinical indications of HA PET “standard service”, but due to their

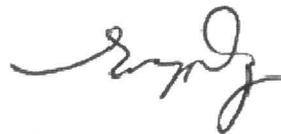
medical needs, they are prescribed PET scan service and confirmed the need to procure such service outside HA by the HA attending doctor, they may apply to DH for reimbursement of medical expenses incurred by completing application FORM B in accordance with the arrangement as stipulated in CSB Circular No. 2/2013. **CSEPs' particular attention is drawn that the medical expenses if paid by health care voucher issued under the "Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme", wholly or partly, will not be reimbursed by DH.**

8. CSEPs who have already made a booking for HA PET "non-standard service" at the three PET centres in HA on or before 31 December 2022 (applicable to the PET scan appointment date scheduled on 1 January 2023 or after) can continue to receive the PET scan service in HA, and DH will arrange direct payment to HA under the existing arrangement as set out in CSB Circular No. 2/2013. Given a PET scan appointment has already been made for the CSEPs concerned, no reimbursement will be allowed for them if they choose to procure such service outside HA, even in cases of emergency and irrespective of whether the attending doctor has provided medical certification in accordance with the prevailing reimbursement policy.

9. Similarly, upon implementation of the new service arrangement on 1 January 2023, CSEPs who fulfil the specific clinical indications of HA PET "standard service" will be arranged to receive PET scan service in QEH/PYNEH/TMH. If the CSEPs concerned opt for going private on their own accord, the medical expenses incurred for the private PET scan services will not be reimbursable under the prevailing policy.

Enquiries

10. Enquiries concerning this memo should be addressed to Departmental Secretaries in the first instance. If Departmental Secretaries themselves are in doubt, they may contact Senior Executive Officer (Conditions of Service)1 (tel. no: 2810 3082) or Executive Officer (Conditions of Service)1 (tel. no: 2810 3079) of this Bureau.



(Miss Emily Ng)
for Secretary for the Civil Service

c.c. Chief Executive, Hospital Authority
Director (Cluster Services), Hospital Authority
Commissioner, Independent Commissioner Against Corruption
Judiciary Administrator
Secretary, Public Service Commission
The Ombudsman
Secretary General, Legislative Council Secretariat
Director of Health (Attn: Hospital Staff Unit)
Director of Accounting Services (Attn: Pensions Division)

Internal

P(SR)
PEO(M)
PEO(G)
Pensions Section