



# Enhancing Palliative and End of Life Care Services in Hospital Authority

*Dr Su Vui LO*

*Director of Strategy and Planning*



## Presentation Outline

- Background
- Recent initiatives
- Way forward





# Background



## Hospital Authority (HA)

- Established in 1990 under the Hospital Authority Ordinance
- A statutory body tasked to manage all public hospitals and institutions





# Facilities & Services

- 42 public hospitals with over 27,000 beds
- 47 Specialist Outpatient Clinics
- 73 General Outpatient Clinics

Patient throughput per year

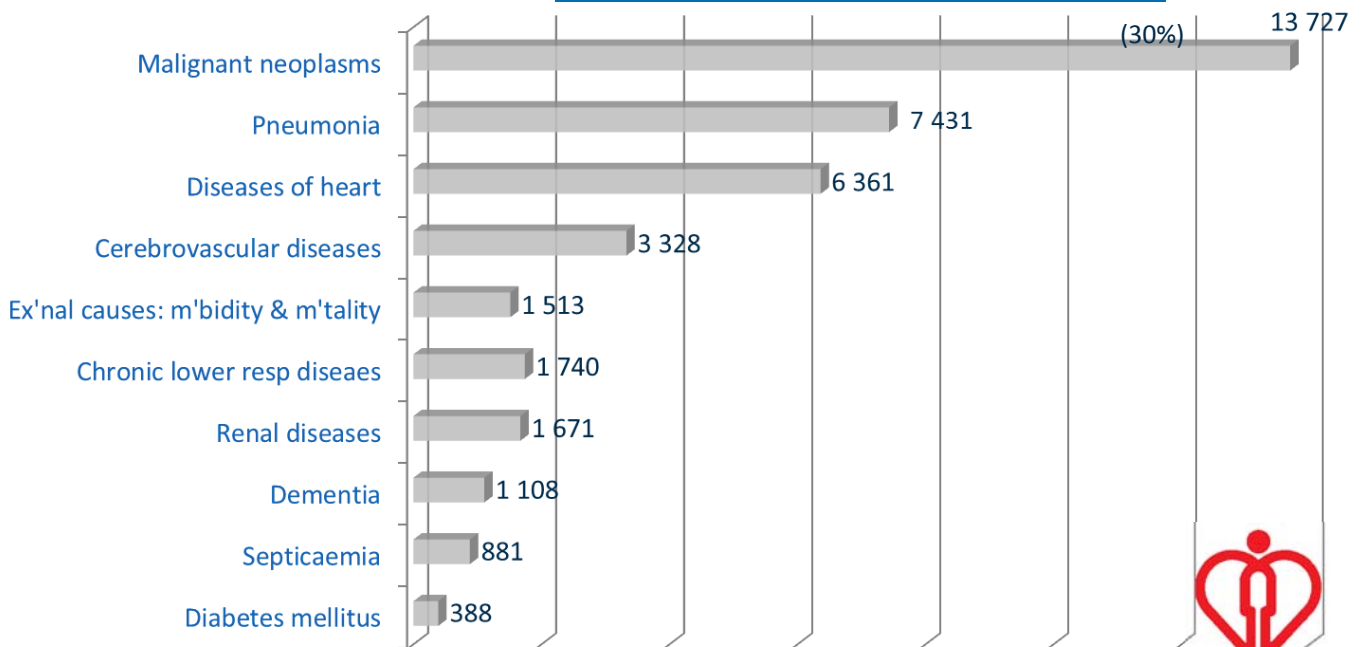
▪ In patient discharges	1.63 million
▪ Accident and Emergency attendances	2.22 million
▪ Specialist outpatient attendances	7.19 million
▪ Allied health (outpatient) attendances	2.43 million
▪ Primary care attendances	6.19 million



# Mortality Scene, 2014

- All registered deaths in Hong Kong: 45 710
- Deaths in HA in 2014: 36 451 (80%)

Top 10 Causes of Deaths in Hong Kong





# Palliative Care (PC) Services in HA

- Organized & coordinated on a cluster basis in 16 hospitals
- Starting with cancer patients

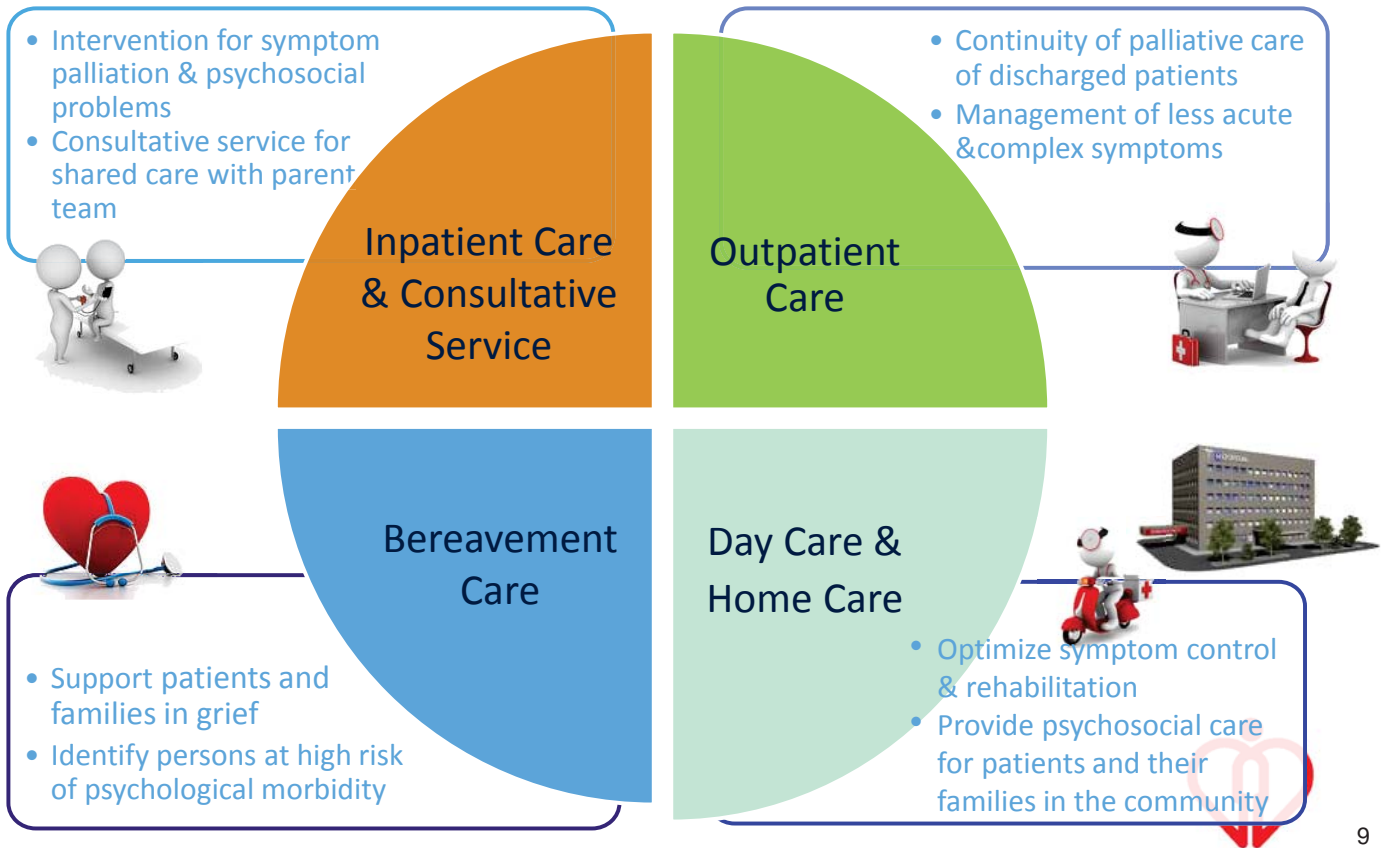


# Multidisciplinary PC Team

- Doctors
  - PC physicians
  - Oncologists specializing in PC
- Nurses
  - Possess post-registration specialty training on PC
  - Nurse Consultants (PC)
- Allied health professionals
  - Clinical psychologists
  - Social workers
  - Physiotherapists
  - Occupational therapists
- Spiritual workers
- Volunteers (under structured training program)

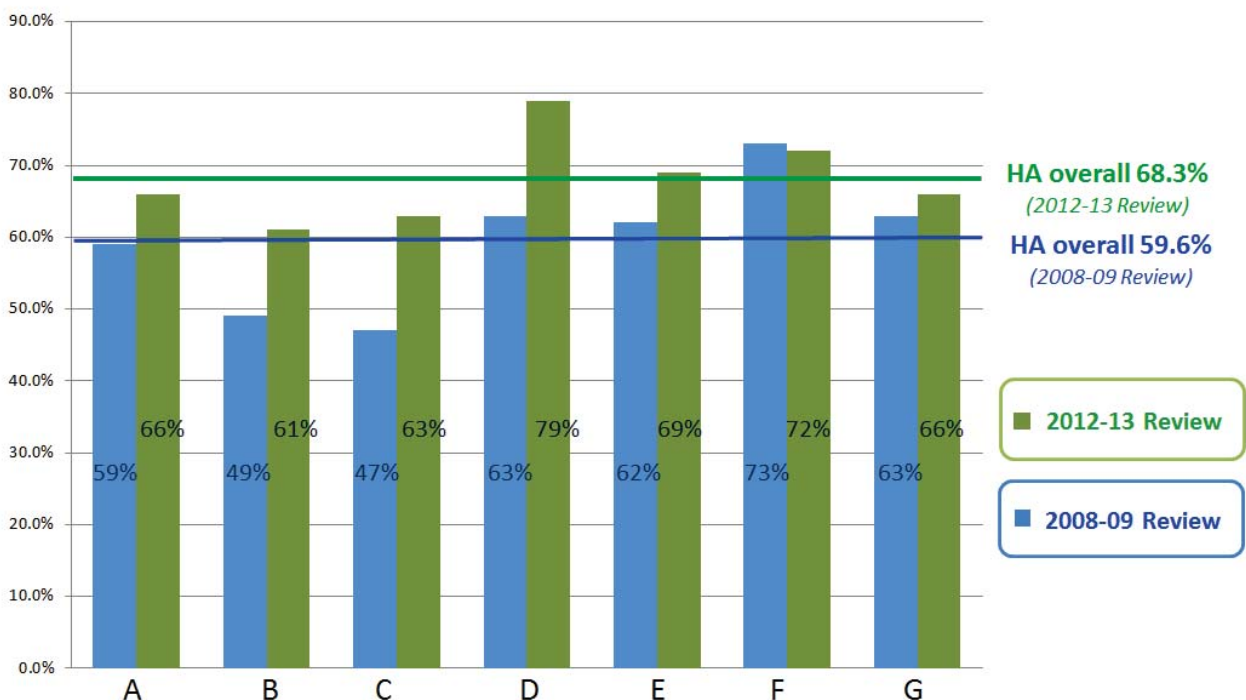


# Care Continuum of PC Services



# Service Coverage for Cancer Patients

- 2008-09: 59.6% → 2012-13: 68.3%
- WHO recommendation: 80%







## Recent Initiatives



## Governance

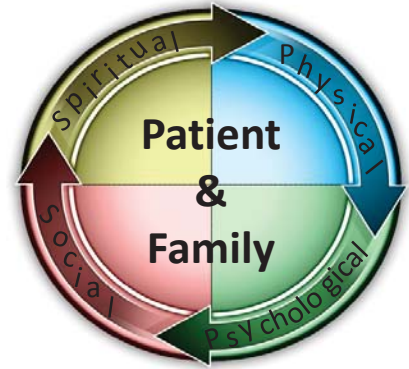
- Formation of Central Committee on Palliative Care to guide policy and service development
- Membership
  - Palliative care physicians
  - Oncologists specializing in palliative care
  - Palliative care nurses
  - Allied health professionals
  - Executives





## Strengthened Psychosocial Services

- Psychosocial services to patients & bereavement care for their families
- Provided by clinical psychologists and medical social workers
  - Earlier identification of patients and family members with severe psychosocial distress
  - Interconnection of physical, psychological, social & spiritual aspects
  - Multidisciplinary, collaboration with community service providers and volunteers



13



## Enhanced PC Day Services

- Collaboration with community partner
- Established 10 PC Day Centres
- Strengthened care modalities in ambulatory setting
  - Outpatient services
  - Rehabilitation
  - Counselling & psychosocial support
  - Educational activities
  - Peer & volunteers support



14



## Extension to Patients with End-stage Organ Failure



- Mainly renal, also COPD and heart failure
  - Provide appropriate care option other than life-sustaining treatments
  - Improve quality of life and symptom control
- Collaboration model between PC and parent specialties
  - Provide integrated services, e.g. inpatient consultations, outpatient, home care visits and bereavement care
- PC service coverage for end-stage renal patients
  - HA overall (2013-14): 44%



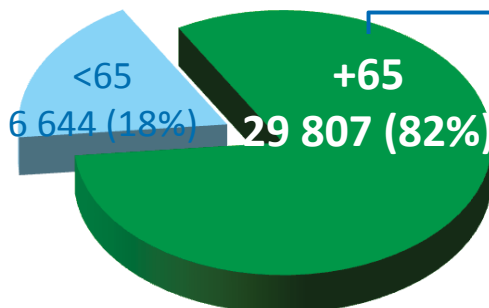
15



## Enhancement of EOL Care in Residential Care Homes (RCHes)

Inpatient Deaths in HA by Age

N=36 451



Residential Care Homes	40%
Non-Residential Care Homes	60%

- Community Geriatric Assessment Team (CGAT)
  - Provide outreach medical consultation, nursing assessment, treatment and community rehabilitation
  - Coverage: around 640 RCHes (90%)



16





# Previous: 'Revolving Door'

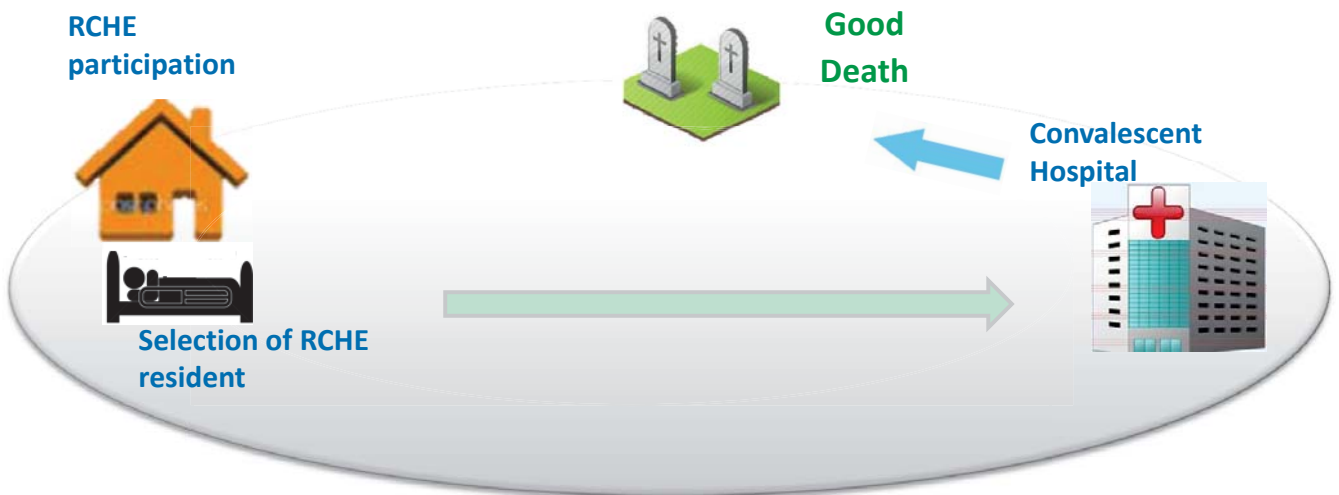


Patients receive 'routine' acute interventions

- CPR
- Tube feeding
- Iontropes
- Mechanical ventilation
- IV antibiotics



# Enhancement of EOL Care in RCHEs



Enhanced CGAT support

- Advance Care Planning (ACP)
- Symptom control and psychosocial support
- Support and training to RCHE

CGAT coordination for hospital admission to appropriate setting





## Coverage of EOL Care in RCHEs

Year	Cluster
2015-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Hong Kong East Cluster</li><li>➤ Hong Kong West Cluster</li><li>➤ New Territories East Cluster</li><li>➤ New Territories West Cluster</li></ul>
2016-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Kowloon Central Cluster</li><li>➤ Kowloon West Cluster</li></ul>
2017-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Kowloon East Cluster</li></ul>

19



## Enabler: Education and Training

- **Multidisciplinary approach**
  - Symposiums
  - Workshops
  - Post-registration Certificate Course in Palliative Care Nursing
  - International conferences
  - Oversea training and attachment



20



## Community Project

### ■ 'Palliative Care in Residential Care Homes'

- Collaboration between the Salvation Army, the HK Association of Gerontology and HA
- Provide one-stop palliative & holistic care to residents and their families
- Pilot in 6 RCHEs
- Test out successful model to improve quality of care at EOL and facilitate dying in place



21



## Enhanced Facilities for Terminal Care

- Individual accommodation renovated in RCHE
- Facilitate residents to die in peace with presence of their families



22



## Strategic Service Framework and Training

- **HA will formulate strategic service framework for PC and EOL care in 2016/17**
  - To better guide the development of service model(s) and system infrastructure in HA
  - To address the existing and anticipated gaps in HA palliative care services over the next 5 to 10 years
- **Strengthen training and skill transfer to more staff in non-PC teams**





# Strengthen Partnership

- Enhance collaboration and partnership with NGOs, other healthcare providers and the community
- Raise public awareness of palliative care
- Increase service options and improve quality of life of patients facing end of life through palliative care approach



*Thank you!*

