

**Views on Budget 2024-25 by Hong Kong Physiotherapists’ Union**

We are registered physiotherapists serving the general public in Hong Kong

1. Support increase both in-patient and out-patient charges in public settings because of global inflation and healthcare finance.
2. Support increase A&E charges as a whole instead of classifying charges for different items of investigations (such as X-ray , laboratory tests)
3. The adverse effects of A&E differentiated charges are as the followings;

* The discrepancy in the justification of fees between the healthcare staff and the attending clients may lead to unnecessary argument which would waste the healthcare resources in terms of the time and energy of the staff (s.a. nurses, supporting staff) in A&E Department.
* It could be very demoralizing for the healthcare professionals to deal with the fees and charges issues instead of healthcare issues
* Despite the increase charges, clients still want to attend A&E because the root problem is the status quote healthcare system which doesn’t provide easy access to the public in primary healthcare setting.
* We envisage to improve the existing primary healthcare system in Hong Kong by allowing the general public with mild healthcare problems such as back pain, neck and shoulder pain, knee or ankle sprain can directly access for Physiotherapy to deal with their simple musculo-skeletal pain without doctor’s referral but have timely physiotherapy management and hence would greatly decrease their intention to attend A&E.

1. When dealing with public health, we have to balance the adverse and the desirable outcomes when sourcing revenue generation. And it’s more important to review the existing system or mechanism for resource optimization instead of a superficial dollar size increase.
2. In facing the aging population and the decrease birth rate in Hong Kong, it’s more realistic to have a thorough discussion with Health Buruea for an effective management in healthcare finance.