



## A Summary of the 81st ACA Meeting held on 11 January 2013



### **ACA Recommended Guidelines on HIV infection and health care workers – an Update to the 2003 print version [draft]**

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Members noted that after the last ACA Meeting, the Recommended Guidelines had been further revised to incorporate comments from ACA Members, CFA Members and the Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Health Care Workers. The revised draft would be sent out for wide-ranged stakeholders consultation shortly.



### **Discussion on abandoning condom as prostitution evidence**

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One Member had found relevant local lawsuit case, in which condoms were only used as one of the supplementary evidence (rather than as the sole or major evidence) in organized crimes that were related to prostitution. Besides, another Member had contacted relevant authorities in UK, Ireland, San Francisco and New York but all replied that only evidence related to the case would be used during prosecution, and no relevant guideline on the use of condom as evidence had been issued so far. Moreover, some educational materials produced by NGOs serving sex workers were circulated in the meeting for Members' reference. Members also noted that there was no case convicted from possession of condom alone and these court cases were all of sex establishments and not street walkers.



### **Film on Syphilis prevention targeting MSM**

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One Member had produced a 10-min film on Syphilis prevention targeting MSM and presented the short film to the meeting and outlined its making and an evaluation of its effectiveness. Members noticed that the film depicted MSM's great concern about intimate partner relationships, and they generally found the film stimulating and useful.



## **Self HIV test and its relevance to Hong Kong**

Members noted that in July 2012, a home HIV test kit was approved in the US. This was a milestone development in that country, as previously only a home collection test kit had been available. The new test was simple, rapid and could be performed by a client himself in the comfort of his home. As such, this test provided absolute privacy as well as convenience. This topical issue was discussed during the meeting, with the emphasis on its relevance to Hong Kong.

A review of the local situation was made, showing that, unlike the US, a variety of self HIV tests had been locally available since 2005. The review also highlighted some differences between the US and Hong Kong in terms of HIV reporting and access to HIV testing. In its discussion, the meeting agreed that self tests had the advantage of privacy and convenience, but was concerned that they did not assure counselling or linkage to care. The suboptimal test performance was also widely discussed. In the end, the Council concluded that broad consumer education should be reinforced regarding the characteristics of and precautions with this new form of testing.



## **An update on HIV/AIDS epidemiology and surveillance among drug users in Hong Kong**

Members were briefed on the update of the HIV/AIDS situation among drug users population in Hong Kong. The high contribution of Asian non-Chinese among the IDU cases in mid 2000s and the decreasing trend in recent years were clarified. Members agreed that although the overall contribution of IDU cases to reported HIV cases and their HIV prevalence remained low in recent years, the proportion of injection and risky needle sharing behaviour remained at a significant level. It was concluded that efforts should continue on the HIV prevention and control of HIV among drug users.



## more about 81st ACA Meeting held on 11 January 2013



### **World AIDS Campaign in Hong Kong 2012**

Members were informed that Red Ribbon Centre (RRC) had organized a series of publicity events from October to December for the World AIDS Campaign 2012 with the theme of “I care, I concern” and they were also briefed on the various activities.



### **Report of the Community Forum on AIDS**

Members were briefed on the major discussion of the 27th CFA Meeting held on 12 December 2012 (and a summary of this CFA Meeting was given in the ACA Newsfile issued in February 2013).



### **A Summary of the 26th SCAS Meeting**

A summary of the 26th Meeting of the SCAS held on 19 December 2012 was tabled at the meeting for members’ general reference.



### **AIDS Trust Fund (ATF)**

Members noted that the Chairman and Secretariat of Council for the ATF had agreed to attend the ACA Meeting to be held in April 2013 for exchange with ACA on the latest work of ATF.

