

Editorial Board

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112th ACA Meeting
9 October 2020

Agenda of 112th ACA Meeting

Date : 9 October 2020 (Friday)
Time : 2:30 pm
Venue : Conference Room, Department of Health, 17/F, Wu Chung House,
Wanchai, Hong Kong

Three main items on the Agenda -

- ◆ Proposed schema of operation for the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (2020-2023)
- ◆ AIDS Trust Fund: Funding support for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in Hong Kong
- ◆ Current HIV situation and AIDS programme in Hong Kong

A Summary of the 111th ACA Meeting held on 10 July 2020

Preliminary results of the feasibility study of using web-based ordering and result upload to support HIV self-testing among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Hong Kong

DH presented the preliminary results of the captioned study, which was conducted from September 2019 to June 2020. The presentation aimed at presenting the latest findings of the study and feedback collected from the participants.

The acceptance of self-testing was found to be high, in view of their feedback and the very high rate of result upload. The study could reasonably reach a certain proportion of individuals with higher sexual risk. Members considered this was a meaningful study and supported to widen the testing coverage in the future, such as heterosexual men.

It was agreed that different modes of service delivery and self-testing support for target groups should be explored. Members also proposed to liaise with the AIDS Trust Fund (ATF) for promotion of self-testing in funded projects.

Report of the Community Forum on AIDS

Members noted the summary report and discussions of the 54th CFA Meeting held on 2 June 2020. A summary of this CFA Meeting was contained in the ACA Newsfile (Vol. 27, No. 8 – August 2020).

Updates on the development of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention

DH presented the recent development of PrEP for HIV prevention in Hong Kong and other regions.

Members considered that more local studies would provide useful background data to estimate the size of high-risk groups needed PrEP and suggested DH and AIDS NGOs might have roles, such as provision of basic medical checkup, laboratory testings and follow-up services, for PrEP users.

While overseas studies have confirmed the effectiveness of PrEP in HIV prevention, Members agreed that PrEP was not a stand-alone tool but should be supported by other HIV prevention strategies such as harm reduction. Capacity building was also crucial, such as building the infrastructure to provide PrEP and the promoting awareness and readiness of users and potential service providers including the public sector and NGOs. Also, local projects examining different models of PrEP delivery should be supported.

Members also opined that promotion and education should be enhanced, particularly among at-risk groups. The ATF was one of the channels to provide resources to support PrEP projects by NGOs.

30th Anniversary of Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (1990-2020)

DH introduced the commemorative event – Reunion Gathering of the 30th anniversary of ACA, as one of the activities of the annual World AIDS Campaign. The event was tentatively scheduled on the same day as the HIV-STI Conference for Primary Health Care Professionals to be held on 28 November 2020. In the Conference, topics including PrEP and self-testing with experts in respective field were invited to present, aiming at enhancing the awareness of various topics on HIV and STI among primary health care workers.