Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Health Care Workers
Department of Health

Chairman : Dr. LAI Sik-to, Thomas
Secretary : Consultant (Special Preventive Programme)
Department of Health

Members: Dr. LEE Cheuk-kwong
Dr. LO Yee-chi, Janice, J.P.
Dr. LUK Hung-to
Mr. TONG Tak-fai, Edmond
Dr. TSANG Ho-fai, Thomas
Dr. WAN Yuen-kong

Our Ref. : ( ) in DH ACA/100/3 (~~2021-2023~~)

28 December 2021

Mr. Philip TSAI Wing-chung, B.B.S., J.P.
The Chairman
The Supplementary Medical Professions Council
Boards and Councils Office,
2/F, Shun Feng International Centre,
182 Queen's Road East,
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Supplementary Medical Professions Council
30 DEC 2021
輔助醫療業管理局

Dear Mr. TSAI,

Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Health Care Workers

The Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Health Care Workers (Panel) was formed in 1994 by the Department of Health in accordance with the recommendations of the Hong Kong Advisory Council on AIDS (ACA), with the primary function of assessing and advising on the need of job modification of HIV infected health care worker and lookback investigation. The attending doctor of an HIV infected health care worker is required to make anonymous referral to the Panel, which will be examined on a case-by-case basis with all information treated in strict confidence. The recommendations will be conveyed to the attending doctor and respective professional body if any.

For 2021 and up to 28 December 2021, there was no referral to the Panel belonging to the supplementary medical profession.

The Panel considers it necessary to keep health care professional bodies and workers abreast of the subject of HIV infection and health care workers from time to time, and would like to stress herewith three points: (a) the importance of adherence to standard infection control practices to minimise transmission of blood-borne pathogens including HIV in the health care setting; (b) the need for the attending doctor (medical or dental profession in particular) to refer infected health care worker anonymously to the Panel for assessment; and (c) the health care workers' duty of care to patients and the need to seek HIV testing, care and treatment as appropriate if they have reason to suspect that they are HIV infected or at risk of infection.

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c/o Special Preventive Programme Office
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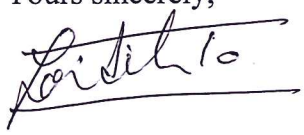
Further information can be accessed via our webpage –

English version : https://www.aids.gov.hk/english/hcw.html; and
Chinese version : https://www.aids.gov.hk/chinese/hcw.html.

Two local recommendations are of relevance. They are the "*HIV infection and health care workers - Recommended Guidelines*" by the ACA (October 2015) (accessible at https://www.aca.gov.hk/publication/278.pdf) and the "*Principles of consent, discussion and confidentiality required of the diagnostic HIV test*" by the ACA and the Scientific Committee on AIDS and STI. (July 2011) (accessible at https://www.chp.gov.hk/files/pdf/principles_of_consent_discussion_and_confidentiality_required_of_the_diagnostic_hiv_test_r.pdf).

I shall be grateful for your assistance to disseminate the messages to members of your profession, and to contact the Panel when the need arises. As always, the Panel maintains confidentiality of the information. Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact the Panel Secretary Dr. KH WONG at tel: 3143 7289.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr. LAI Sik-to, Thomas)
Chairman
Expert Panel on HIV Infection of Health Care Workers