



沙田國際醫務中心仁安醫院
SHATIN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CENTRE
UNION HOSPITAL



Press Release

12 March 2008

Union Hospital Sets Up The First Private Emergency Medicine Centre in Hong Kong
*...Showing the way forward for healthcare and
easing the burden on emergency medical services in New Territories East.*

Union Hospital announced today the official opening of its Emergency Medicine Centre, Hong Kong's **FIRST** outpatient emergency medicine centre operated by a private hospital. It will provide 24-hour emergency medical services for the community and be run by experienced specialists in emergency medicine with support from the hospital's team of medical specialists. The centre will offer high quality services to patients, making it a premier alternative for those seeking emergency medical care outside the public sector.

Chief Hospital Manager, Dr. Anthony Lee said, "The launch of Hong Kong's first private emergency medicine service by Union Hospital not only marks a significant milestone in the development of the hospital, but also opens a new chapter for healthcare services offered by the private sector in Hong Kong. The Emergency Medicine Centre targets people who demand high quality, efficient medical services in the event of a sudden critical illness, when they would need cutting-edge medical treatment promptly."

According to statistics from the Hospital Authority, demand for Accident and Emergency services has grown in 2006-2007, with the total number of A&E attendances reaching 2.05 million, of these, more than 380,000 or 18.5% were from the New Territories East Cluster. This represents an increase of 4% over the previous year.

The new service by Union Hospital will provide an important alternative emergency medicine channel to that offered by public hospitals. By its existence, the centre will further the cooperation between the public and private healthcare sectors. This will help relieve demands on the public Accident and Emergency Departments.



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Patients will be classified by medical staff in accordance with established triage guidelines, determined by the urgency of their conditions. However, Union Hospital will not recommend admitting patients in the following categories: those having conditions with legal implications or which must be reported to the police such as suspected criminal cases; acute psychiatric illnesses with a tendency for severe depression, suicide or violence; road traffic accidents, industrial accidents, wounding and non-accidental poisonings.

The newly opened Emergency Medicine Centre complies fully with the government's strict requirements. It has gained approval from the Department of Health and has been accredited as a training centre by The Hong Kong College of Emergency Medicine.

Union Emergency Medicine Centre 24-hr hotline: 2608 3355.

About Union Hospital

Union Hospital, which is the only private hospital in the Eastern New Territories, was established in 1994. It is a progressive and contemporary hospital service provider, fully accredited by various international and local Institutions.

It is committed to delivering quality healthcare in the community and beyond, developing a reputation for patient-centric services, state-of-the-art technology and premium facilities.

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APPENDIX

The centre is run by a team including seven emergency medicine specialists and nursing staff. All of whom are highly dedicated and experienced in many facets of modern emergency practice including: Intensive care, Cardiology, Paediatrics, Orthopaedics and Traumatology. They are qualified to handle any situation which would normally be expected in an emergency department.

To aid the emergency physicians in carrying out their duties, the Emergency Medicine Centre is fully equipped to handle patients with diverse acute conditions such as: asthma, cardiac conditions, stroke, abdominal pain and home accidents.

In the event of a sudden influx of large numbers of patients or if the management of a single patient requires, there is a contingency plan in place to mobilize supporting medical staff from other disciplines within a stipulated response time. The emergency physicians would be able to call upon these colleagues and draw on the resources of the Operating Theatres, Intensive Care Unit, Cardiac Centre, Imaging and Pathology Departments on short notice. This will ensure the patient receives the most comprehensive and timely management of his condition.

Union Hospital also maintains intimate ties with public hospitals under the Hospital Authority, the Hong Kong Red Cross, International SOS and the Emergency Ambulance Service, so that if needed, patients can be managed in other centres seamlessly and without delay.