



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



Press Release

14 July 2008

**Union Hospital Open-heart Surgery Package Scheme
Helps Cardiac Patients Begin a New Chapter of Life**

Union Hospital today announced the launch of its “Open-heart Surgery” package scheme, an enhancement of its quality cardiac service following the establishment of the Union Heart Centre last year. The scheme provides a variety of package options and instalment plans which are applicable to various major cardiac surgeries. This enables patients to accurately estimate their medical expenses and to undergo their surgery without delay, helping them embark on a new chapter of life.

Heart diseases are the second leading cause of death in Hong Kong after cancer. According to statistics from the Department of Health, heart diseases accounted for about 5,619 deaths in 2006, equivalent to 15% of all deaths in that year. Although there are many different types of heart diseases, the most common is coronary heart disease (CHD). As the dietary habits of Hong Kong people are becoming more westernised, people suffering from CHD are getting younger. Based on the Population Health Survey 2003/2004, 1.6% of people aged 15 and above had doctor-diagnosed CHD.

Cardiac specialist team with state-of-the-art equipment

Dr. Anthony Lee, Chief Hospital Manager and Medical Director of Union Hospital said, “Union Heart Centre has received an excellent response from the public since its establishment in April last year. The Centre is equipped with advanced cardiac equipment and a well-trained team of healthcare specialists which provides comprehensive cardiac examinations and treatments to patients. More often than not, patients are required to pay an unpredictable sum of money to cover cardiac surgery, and to endure long waits for surgery at public hospitals. Union Hospital has launched this package scheme to meet the strong demand of the community, and to meet the needs of local cardiac patients. This scheme will enable them to undergo their operation as quickly as possible and ease the strain on their financial commitments.”



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Regarding treatments for heart disease, Dr. Li Siu Lung, Director of Union Heart Centre, said, “Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty is commonly used in the treatment of CHD. However, in the event of low therapeutic efficacy or complications, open-heart surgeries such as coronary artery bypass graft surgeries are considered as an alternative therapeutic option.

Coronary artery bypass graft surgery

In coronary artery bypass graft surgery, a blood vessel is used to bypass a narrowed or blocked coronary artery. By connecting to the aorta and the coronary artery beyond the area of blockage, the grafted vessel serves as a bridge for the transmission of blood from the aorta to cardiac muscles beyond the blockage, preventing a decrease in blood flow and the formation of lesions. The bypass grafts are normally taken from great saphenous veins in the lower half of a patient’s body or the internal mammary arteries.

Heart valve replacement surgery

Cardiac surgeries are applicable in the treatment of heart valve diseases including valve stenosis and valve insufficiency. Valve stenosis is the incomplete opening of the heart valve, which impedes the flow of blood, while valve insufficiency is the incomplete closure of the heart valve, causing blood to flow in the reverse direction from the leak. Heart valve diseases can be caused either by congenital or acquired factors including bacterial infection and degeneration.

Specialist in cardiothoracic surgery, Dr. Chiu Shui Wah said, “Patients diagnosed as having serious valve stenosis or valve insufficiency should undergo excision surgery and heart valve replacement. An artificial heart valve will be implanted to replace the natural heart valve. Surgeons perform a sternotomy and connect the heart to an artificial cardiopulmonary machine. This will temporarily undertake blood circulation and the function of respiratory system for the replacement surgery.



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Open-heart Surgery Package

Open-heart surgery is a major and complicated operation. The amount of medical expenses incurred may be out of patients' expectations. The launch of Open-heart Surgery Package will be able to help patients to undergo operations within estimated budget.

Operation	Package Price (HK\$) (based on Standard Room with 4 beds)
CABG	\$388,000
Valve Replacement	\$383,000
CABG + EVH (GA)	\$399,000
Septal Defect Repair (GA)	\$383,000
CABG + Mital Valve / Tricuspid Valve Annuloplasty (GA)	\$399,000

#Please refer to the pamphlet of Union Hospital Open Heart Surgery Package for details.

Union Heart Centre offers comprehensive cardiac services, ranging from cardiac examination and treatment, coronary angioplasty, open-heart surgery, 24-hour emergency cardiac care and a cardiac rehabilitation programme. The Centre also works closely with the Intensive Care Unit and operation rooms to provide a one-stop world-class medical solution to the community.

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, and has developed a reputation for patient-centric services, state-of-the-art technology and premium facilities.

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