



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



**For Immediate Release**

**Booking and Surcharge System  
for Obstetric Clients to Union Hospital**

**12 December 2006, Hong Kong** – Union Hospital has just implemented a booking and surcharge system to maternity clients to encourage proper antenatal care. **Dr Ares Leung, Deputy Medical Director of Union Hospital**, expressed that the arrangement also facilitates efficient utilization of obstetric beds in Union Hospital.

1. Qualified obstetricians with privileges to use the Delivery Suites in Union Hospital may book an obstetric client for delivery in Union Hospital after 20 weeks, usually after fetal structural examination has been conducted. Individual pregnant ladies may book obstetric places for themselves only through visiting doctors or the clinic staff.
2. The contact telephone numbers for booking by visiting doctors is 2608 3107 (7:00am – 11:00pm). Bookings from staff specialists are effective through internal channels.
3. Obstetric clients who attend Union Hospital only for delivery without prior attendance to an obstetrician with obstetric delivery privileges in Union Hospital shall pay a surcharge of HK\$20,000 for extra work conducted in short periods of time. In addition, these non-booked subjects may not be given obstetric delivery beds and may be referred to public hospitals even in the middle of labour.
4. Obstetric clients who attend their booking doctors for fewer than 3 times, each separated by at least a week (therefore covering a span of more than 2 weeks), before childbirth, shall pay a surcharge of HK\$10,000. The ante-natal examination and the appropriate tests should be done by O & G specialists and reliable laboratories in Hong Kong. It is the duty of the doctor to provide proof of antenatal visits.

5. Local mothers and overseas clients have the same fees mechanism. The new hospital obstetric package charges due for effectiveness in February 2007 is about 10% more than packages in 2006. Clients are encouraged to ask their doctors proposed fees for professional services.
6. The Private Hospitals Association has organized a mechanism for prevention of multiple booking in several private hospitals.
7. Union Hospital advocates appropriate professional care rendered by appropriate providers. Obstetricians working in Union Hospital should not recommend mode of delivery based on bed shortage or availability.
8. Members of Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Union Hospital, are given priority in booking for obstetric deliveries. Information about departmental membership is available in the Union Hospital website.
9. Local mothers are given special considerations.

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