



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1974

GERIATRIC UNIT AT PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL PLANS FOR REHABILITATION, REINTEGRATION OF ELDERLY INTO COMMUNITY *****

A GERIATRIC UNIT OF 220 BEDS, DUE FOR OPENING IN STAGES IN MAY NEXT YEAR, IS ONE OF THE UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL IN LAI CHI KOK.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, THE FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, AND THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT ARE AT WORK ON A COMMITTEE LOOKING AT ASPECTS OF THE UNIT'S ORGANISATION OF THE SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED.

THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT IS INVOLVED BECAUSE THE UNIT ENVISAGES A TWO-WAY FLOW OF SUITABLE PATIENTS BETWEEN THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL AND OLD PEOPLE'S HOMES SUBVENTED BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

THE ROLE OF THE FIRE SERVICES IS TO PROVIDE AMBULANCE OR OTHER TRANSPORT FOR THE ELDERLY WHO ARE NOT HOSPITALISED, BUT WHO WILL GO FOR DAY CARE, INCLUDING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND PHYSIOTHERAPY, AT THE SOUTH KWAI CHUNG POLYCLINIC.

IN BRIEF, THE UNIT'S WORK WILL BE TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, REHABILITATE AND REINTEGRATE INTO THE COMMUNITY SUITABLE SICK OLD PEOPLE OF 65 OR OVER.

THE CONCEPT OF SUCH A UNIT WITHIN A GENERAL HOSPITAL, THOUGH NOT UNUSUAL IN SOME PARTS OF THE WORLD, IS NEW IN HONG KONG. BUT THE WHITE PAPER ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES HERE LOOKS FORWARD TO EXTENSION OF THE CONCEPT TO HOSPITALS AND CLINICS TO BE BUILT IN THE FUTURE.

THE UNIT WILL STRESS ACTIVE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION, BASED ON A POLICY OF EARLY DISCHARGE SO AS TO REINTEGRATE THE PATIENTS INTO THE COMMUNITY AS INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IN ADDITION, CARE WILL BE TAKEN TO SEE THAT BOTH PATIENTS AND PUBLIC UNDERSTAND THAT HOSPITALISATION DOES NOT MEAN A PERMANENT STAY, BUT BASED ON A REGIME OF QUICK DISCHARGE FOLLOWING ACTIVE TREATMENT.

FOR PATIENTS WHO REQUIRE LONG-TERM HOSPITAL CARE, TRANSFER WILL BE MADE TO +CONTINUING-CARE BEDS+ IN OTHER HOSPITALS.

DURING A PATIENT'S STAY IN HOSPITAL, IF HE OR SHE REQUIRES CARE IN OTHER SPECIALITIES SUCH AS MEDICAL, SURGICAL, ORTHOPAEDIC, OR PSYCHIATRIC, CONSULTATION WILL BE HELD WITH THE APPROPRIATE SPECIALIST UNITS WITHIN THE HOSPITAL FOR ADVICE AND TREATMENT.

FOR A PATIENT ABOUT TO BE DISCHARGED BACK TO HIS OR HER OWN HOME, A HOSTEL, OR AN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME, ATTENDANCE AT THE UNIT'S +DAY HOSPITAL+ WILL BE NECESSARY FOR SOME TIME. THIS IS ALSO A NEW CONCEPT. IN THE UNIT'S OVERALL STRATEGY, THE +DAY HOSPITAL+ WILL SERVE AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL AND THE COMMUNITY.

SINCE THERE ARE NO GUIDELINES FOR A PIONEER PROJECT OF THIS KIND, THE COMMITTEE IS AGREED THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE AGE MINIMUM OF 65 YEARS, ADMISSION WILL BE SUBJECT TO THESE OTHER CRITERIA:

* PATIENTS MUST BE SUFFERING FROM CONDITIONS WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHIEF OF THE GERIATRIC UNIT, WOULD BENEFIT FROM ACTIVE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION.

THEY MUST NEED +HOSPITAL+ CARE AS OPPOSED TO +RESIDENTIAL+ CARE IN AN OLD PEOPLE'S HOME.

THEY MUST NOT BE MENTALLY DISTURBED, SINCE IN THAT CASE, THEY WOULD BE REFERRED TO PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS OR CLINICS.

THEIR ADMISSIONS MUST DEPEND ON THE AVAILABILITY OF VACANT BEDS.

PATIENTS WILL BE REFERRED FOR CONSULTATION TO THE SPECIALIST GERIATRIC CLINIC IN SOUTH KWAI CHUNG OR, ON SPECIAL REQUEST FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT UNITS, BEDSIDE CONSULTATION WILL BE ARRANGED.

SUITABLE PATIENTS WILL THEN BE SELECTED FOR ADMISSION AND TREATMENT IN THE UNIT, BUT ADMISSION WILL NOT BE DIRECTLY FROM THE PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL'S CASUALTY DEPARTMENT.

PRE-SELECTION IS INTENDED AS A MEANS OF MAKING EFFECTIVE USE OF AVAILABLE GERIATRIC BEDS, AND THE UNIT'S FACILITIES.

+INAPPROPRIATE ADMISSION WITHOUT PRELIMINARY GERIATRIC CONSULTATION,+ A SPOKESMAN EXPLAINS, +COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES RESULTING FROM THE MISPLACEMENT OF PATIENTS AND MISUSE OF ACUTE GERIATRIC BEDS.

+THIS WOULD RESULT IN AN UNNECESSARY BLOCKAGE OF BEDS, A LOW TURNOVER RATE, AND THE CREATION OF AN UNACCEPTABLE WAITING LIST.+

THE SPOKESMAN SAYS THE EXPERIENCE OF GERIATRIC UNITS IN OTHER COUNTRIES IS THAT UNLESS A PRE-SELECTION SYSTEM IS APPLIED, THE UNIT WILL QUICKLY DEGENERATE INTO A +DUMPING GROUND+ FOR ELDERLY PATIENTS UNLIKELY TO RESPOND TO TREATMENT.

THE ULTIMATE AIM OF A QUICK TURNOVER OF SUITABLE PATIENTS -- WHOSE REINTEGRATION WOULD BENEFIT BOTH THE COMMUNITY AND THEM -- WILL THEN BE DEFEATED.

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FILTRATION SYSTEM FOR ABERDEEN SWIMMING POOL
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TENDERS WILL SOON BE CALLED FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF THREE FILTRATION PLANTS FOR THE PARTIALLY-HEATED SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX IN ABERDEEN.

SITUATED AT SHUM WAN ROAD, WONG CHUK HANG, THE COMPLEX WILL CONSIST OF A MAIN POOL OF 50 METRES BY 21 METRES, A SECONDARY POOL, THREE TEACHING POOLS, A DIVING POOL, A CHILDREN'S POOLS AND PLAY AREA.

THE WORK OF THE TENDER COMPRISES THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SEA-WATER FILTRATION PLANTS, INCLUDING HEATING EQUIPMENT FOR THE MAIN POOL AND PLANTS FOR THE OTHER POOLS, CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING THE SWIMMING POOL WATER IN A CLEAR AND STERILE STATE.

EACH FILTRATION PLANT MUST CONSIST OF PRESSURE SAND FILTERS, WATER CIRCULATING PUMPS, CHEMICAL DOSING EQUIPMENT, CHLORINATORS AND WATER DISTRIBUTION PIPE WORK AND FITTINGS.

THE TOTAL CAPACITY OF THE INSTALLATION IS 4,200,000 LITRES OF WATER TO BE RECIRCULATED THROUGH THE FILTRATION SYSTEM ONCE EVERY FOUR TO SIX HOURS.

SITE FORMATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE POOL COMPLEX WILL BEGIN EARLY NEXT YEAR, SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION DURING THE LATTER PART OF 1976.

WITH A STAND FOR 800 SPECTATORS, THE COMPLEX WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE 5,000 AT ONE TIME.