Healthcare

In line with its administrative guideline of building a quality society, the Macao SAR Government maintains its policy of “A sound healthcare system, putting prevention first” and is committed to improving medical and healthcare quality and safeguarding the health of the public.

There are three hospitals and one day hospital in Macao and 720 clinics that provide primary healthcare, among which 710 are private clinics. During 2013, there were 1,514 doctors and 1,854 nurses, an increase of 2.2% and 5.9%, respectively, over the previous year. The ratio of doctors to residents was 1:400, that of nurses to residents was 1:323.

Medical and health services providers in Macao are classified as Governmental or non-governmental. The former includes Government Health Centres for primary healthcare and Conde S. Januario Hospital, which provides specialists medical services. The latter includes medical entities subsidised by the Government and other institutions, such as Kiang Wu Hospital, the university Hospital, the Workers’ Clinic and Tung Sin Tong Clinic, as well as various private clinics and laboratories. Most medical services provided by Government Health Centres and Tung Sin Tong Clinic are basically free of charge.

A Sound Primary Healthcare Network

To realise the objective of “Health for All” advocated by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Health Bureau has established Health Centres throughout the territory. The completion of a primary health care network with Health Centres as its operational units offers all Macao residents easy access to primary health care services in their own neighbourhoods.

At present, there are six Health Centres and three Health Stations distributed throughout the different districts of Macao. Among them, the Fai Chi Kei and Areia Preta health centres are also equipped with traditional Chinese medicine clinics. All Health Centres provide prenatal care, family planning, children’s healthcare, adult healthcare, oral healthcare, student healthcare, health education and Traditional Chinese Medicine services.

The free healthcare services provided by Health Centres also include family visits, referral, vaccination, medical social work, mental health care, quit-smoking consultation, and other nursing services. All legal residents of Macao, regardless of their age or occupation, are entitled to free services at Health Centres and supplementary check ups at Conde S. Januario Hospital by referral from Health Centres.

Macao has established a sound primary healthcare network based on Government Health Centres - considered a model practice by the WHO.

Medical and Health Resources
The Macao Government devotes considerable resources to medical and healthcare. In 2013, the Government’s budget for medical and health case was about 4.24 billion patacas, an increase of 5.74 percent over 2012.

In 2013, the three hospitals received 1,442,907 outpatients, including 273,982 outpatients admitted to the emergency wards. In 2013, the general mortality rate was 3.2 per thousand residents, while the mortality rate for infants under one year old was two per thousand live births. The average life expectancy in Macao is 78.9 years for men and 85.6 years for women (2010-2013). The figure is on par with those of developed countries.

According to the ICD-10-CM classification system (International Classification of Disease, Tenth Edition, Clinical Modification), malignant tumours were the biggest cause of death in Macao, while diseases of the circulatory diseases and respiratory diseases ranked second and third, respectively. In 2013, these three categories accounted for 37.4 percent, 24.4 percent and 16.7 percent, respectively, of all deaths during the year.

**Perfecting the Healthcare System**

In order to improve the standard of Macao’s healthcare system, the MSAR Government adopts a policy by “first improving, then reforming” the system. Through operations conducted by the Healthcare Reform Advisory Committee, a series of medical reform projects have promoted and deepened the healthcare system. A Medical Activities and Complaints Assessment Centre has also been established to mediate and handle any medical disputes.

The Health Bureau has been fully implementing different healthcare and social welfare policies, which include extending the working hours of health centres, introducing advanced medical devices, improving facilities and infrastructure of Conde S. Januario Hospital and other health centres, shortening waiting time for medical consultations, and optimising and reforming medical services.

In 2008, the Government has strengthened its cooperation with non-governmental medical service providers, to fully utilise community health resources. A medical subsidy scheme has been launched for the very first time, in an attempt to promote the use of private medical practices within the community.

In order to speed up the progress and development of Macao’s healthcare system, the Government has also signed cooperation agreements with the mainland on food safety, quarantine and inspection, development of traditional Chinese medicine, drug supervision and management, and medical education and training.

The Government has strengthened its mechanism on disease prevention and control, and enhanced the Law on Prevention and Treatment of Communicable Diseases and related regulations and ancillary measures to handle different health threats. It has also enhanced inter-departmental cooperation mechanism and capacity to tackle new forms of pandemic influenza, based on its experience in coping with dengue fever, avian flu, severe acute respiratory syndrome and H1N1 swine flu.

**Macao’s Three Hospitals**
Conde S. Januario Hospital
Conde S. Januario Hospital is a modern Government medical institution with advanced and comprehensive facilities. It has 91 departments including Inpatient, Outpatient, Emergency and other specialists departments. According to Health Bureau’s statistics for 2013, its bed occupancy rate was 85.63 percent, and patients stayed in the hospital for an average of 10.05 days.

According to Health Bureau’s statistics for 2013, Conde S. Januario Hospital had 283 doctors and 751 nurses. There were a total of 769 beds; 645 in its Inpatient Department and 124 in its Outpatient Department. The Hospital treated 363,214 outpatients, 273,982 emergency cases and 18,967 inpatients. The Psychiatric Centre of Conde S. Januario Hospital has 126 beds, 81 of which are for inpatients and 45 for outpatients. During 2012, it accepted 1,271 new adult psychiatric outpatient cases.

Conde S. Januario Hospital provides free medical services for expectant mothers, new mothers, children under 10, primary and secondary school students, teachers and other school staff, patients suffering from infectious diseases, people with malignant tumours, drug addicts, the mentally ill, prisoners, civil servants, people aged 65 and above, people who hold proof of financial difficulty and inability to pay for medical services issued by Conde S. Januario Hospital, people holding Certificates of Indigence issued by the Social Welfare Bureau, and Macao permanent residents who hold Disability Assessment Cards.

Kiang Wu Hospital
Kiang Wu Hospital is a non-governmental medical and health institution administered by the Kiang Wu Hospital Charitable Association of Macao. Established in 1871, it has a 137-year history as a charitable hospital founded and operated by Chinese people. Kiang Wu Hospital has now developed into a modern and all-inclusive hospital. In 2013, it had a staff of 1,865, including 337 doctors, 591 nurses, 296 technicians and 641 health workers.

Kiang Wu Hospital has an emergency department and three outpatient departments. During 2013, its outpatient departments treated over 1.23 million patients, an average of 3,749 per day.

University Hospital
Established in March 2006, the University Hospital is an institution under the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) Foundation. It is an integrated, modern hospital that serves as the clinical and teaching base for the Faculty of Chinese Medicine and Faculty of Health Sciences of the MUST. The hospital has a team of local professional medical staff and medical consultants from overseas, mainland China and Hong Kong. The Inpatient Department has 60 beds; double rooms, single rooms and luxury rooms are available.

For more information:
Statistic and Census Service (http://www.dsec.gov.mo)
Health Bureau (http://www.ssm.gov.mo)

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