

Healthcare

The Government's long-term policy objectives are to enhance the quality of medical services, and improve medical and health care facilities, thus safeguarding and improving public health. The health departments have been continually accelerating the establishment of different kinds of facilities, improving the medical and health systems, raising the level of medical services, and increasing health care resources at the community level.

There are four hospitals and 724 clinics that provide primary healthcare. During 2021, there were 1,888 doctors and 2,742 nurses, a decrease of 1.1 percent and an increase of 3.1 percent, respectively, over the previous year. The ratio of doctors to residents was 2.8 per thousand residents, that of nurses to residents was 4.0 per thousand residents.

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.

Healthcare Resources

The Government devotes considerable resources to medical and health care to optimise medical services and various health care facilities. In 2021, total expenditure on medical and health services was about 8.92 billion patacas, representing an increase of 0.41 percent over the 2020 figure.

During 2021, the hospitals in Macao received a total of 1,962,168 outpatients and 389,627 emergency cases. The general mortality rate was 3.4 per thousand inhabitants, while the mortality rate for infants was 1.8 per thousand live births. The average life expectancies for men and women in Macao were 81.3 and 87.1 years (2018-2021), respectively, which are among the highest life expectancies for any country or territory.

According to the ICD-10-CM classification system (International Classification of Disease, Tenth Edition, Clinical Modification), malignant tumours were the main cause of death in Macao, while circulatory diseases and respiratory diseases ranked

second and third, respectively. In 2021, these three categories accounted for 38.1 percent, 23.9 percent and 14.2 percent, respectively, of all deaths during the year.

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 eight Health Centres and three Health Stations in Macao. All Health Centres provide adult healthcare, prenatal care, children’s healthcare, oral healthcare, student healthcare, prenatal care, women’s healthcare, Traditional Chinese Medicine services, acupuncture, psychological counselling, tobacco quitting consultations, cervical cancer and colorectal cancer screening, health screening and immunisation 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. While non-residents are required to pay for such services according to rates established by the Health Bureau. Services provided by the Conde S. Januario Hospital are chargeable except for people specified by the Government, but Macao residents may enjoy a lower rate than non-residents.

Cooperation with non-profit medical institutions

The Government cooperates with many non-profit-making medical institutions to provide various services to residents including specialist health care (inpatient, emergency and cardiac surgery), Chinese medicine and dental care, rehabilitation, home care, cervical cancer screening, psychological therapy, patient transportation, and dental cavity filling service and periodontal cure service. It also provides education programmes on AIDS prevention, psychological health and promotion of tobacco-free lifestyles.

Since 2009, the Government has implemented a medical subsidy scheme, distributing health care vouchers to every Macao permanent resident on an annual basis to enhance public health consciousness and subsidise medical expenses. In 2018, the Government issued electronic vouchers. Through application of big data, the Government is able to better analyse and review the usage of healthcare vouchers, thereby enhancing the development of smart healthcare.

In addition, the Government has strengthened cooperation with mainland China in the areas of food safety, food inspection, Chinese medicine, pharmaceutical supervision, medical education and training in a bid to further the development of Macao's public health sector.

Public Hygiene and Disease Prevention

In 2021, there were a total of 3,598 cases of infectious diseases requiring mandatory declaration, the top three of which were enterovirus infection (1,451 cases), Salmonella infection (487 cases) and chicken pox (366 cases). There were 56 cases of human immunodeficiency virus infections, 33 cases of other coronavirus-related severe respiratory infections (COVID-19), three cases of legionnaires disease and two cases of scrub typhus. There were no cases of rubella, dengue fever, pertussis, Avian influenza A (H7N9), Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS) or Ebola virus.

To ensure public health, the Public Health Laboratory conducts chemical and microorganism tests for food safety, water quality, medicine, and clinical samples, as well as diagnostic services for some infectious diseases. In 2021, it tested 475,232 samples, and conducted a total of 693,990 tests.

Pharmaceutical Supervision

In accordance with By-law No. 35/2021, the MSAR Government set up the Pharmaceutical Supervision and Administration Bureau on 1 January 2022. The new bureau is under the portfolio of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture and its jurisdiction include the study, coordination, and implementation of policies regarding the supervision and administration of drugs and medicines in Macao, including the registration of all new drugs and supervision of pharmaceutical companies and pharmacists. In addition, the bureau has the authority to create a new legal regime aiming to unify the management and use of small medical devices, specifically the medical equipment used by nurses and physicians for the administration of drugs.

Macao's Three Major Hospitals

Conde S. Januario Hospital

Conde S. Januario Hospital is a modern Government medical institution with advanced and comprehensive facilities. It has 27 specialist departments providing 79 types of specialist outpatient services, including specialist outpatient, specialist medical examination and treatment outpatient services, and consultations and lectures organised by the outpatient department. In 2021, the bed occupancy rate stood at 70.08 percent and the average stay was 10.56 days.

In 2021 Conde S. Januario Hospital had 436 doctors, 1,153 nurses and 1,055 beds (940 inpatient beds and 115 outpatient beds). It received 484,448 outpatients and 251,675 emergency cases and 22,945 inpatient cases.

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 is a charitable hospital founded and operated by Chinese people. Kiang Wu Hospital has now developed into a modern and all-inclusive hospital. In 2021, the hospital had 2,160 staff: 401 doctors, 633 nurses, 150 technical professionals and 976 other employees.

Kiang Wu Hospital has four outpatient departments and two emergency departments, on the Macao Peninsula and Taipa, respectively. The Dr Henry Y. T. Fok Specialist Medical Centre was completed and commenced operation in August 2009 to offer various specialty outpatient services to the public. During 2021, its emergency and outpatient departments treated over 1,414,920 patients, an average of 4,322 each day.

University Hospital

Established in March 2006, the University Hospital is an institution under the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) Foundation. It has developed into a modern integrated hospital incorporating the strengths of both Chinese and western medicines. It serves as the clinical and teaching base for the Faculty of Chinese Medicine and Faculty of Health Sciences of the MUST, and it is the only hospital in Macao that is supported by a university. The hospital comprises various specialties of western and Chinese medicines, providing general outpatient services as well as comprehensive medical services that include integrated tumour treatment, medical beauty and clinical genetics. The hospital also features technology-intensive facilities that include interventional catheterisation and surgery rooms, as well as various service centres. The Inpatient Department has 60 beds, and there is an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), while the haemodialysis centre has 48 beds.