

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 five hospitals and 732 clinics that provide primary healthcare. In 2023, there were 1,980 doctors and 2,980 nurses. The ratio of doctors to residents was 2.9 per thousand residents, that of nurses to residents was 4.4 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.

The Islands Healthcare Complex - Macao Medical Centre of Peking Union Medical College Hospital (Macao Union Hospital) formally opened on 16 September 2024. As a large-scale integrated public medical institution, the hospital provides private healthcare services on top of its primary objective of meeting the demand for public healthcare services. Its service charges are divided into three tiers: the first tier is free healthcare services, which caters to Macao residents who currently enjoy free healthcare and are referred by the Health Bureau to the Macao Union Hospital; the other two tiers will give certain discounts to those Macao residents who do not enjoy free healthcare.

Healthcare Resources

The Government devotes considerable resources to medical and health care to optimise medical services and various health care facilities. In 2023, total expenditure on medical and health services was about 9.08 billion patacas, representing a decrease of 6.6 percent over the 2022 figure.

During 2023, the hospitals in Macao received a total of 1,956,633 outpatients and 460,986 emergency cases. The general mortality rate was 4.4 per thousand inhabitants, while the mortality rate for infants was 2.4 per thousand live births. The average life expectancies for men and women in Macao were 80.3 and 86.0 years (2020-2023),

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 2023, these three categories accounted for 29.6 percent, 27.4 percent and 16.8 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 nine health centres and two health stations offering adult health care, child health care, oral health care and fillings, school health care, pre-natal health care, women's health care, Chinese medicine and acupuncture, psychological health care, tobacco quitting consultations, nutrition 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 and colorectal cancer screening, and psychological therapy. 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, subsidise residents' medical expenses and promote the growth of private medical institutions. 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 2023, there were a total of 30,682 cases of infectious diseases requiring mandatory declaration, the top three of which were influenza (22,043 cases), enteroviruses (5,612 cases), and severe respiratory infections related to coronavirus (1,191 cases).

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 2023, it tested 129,640 samples, and conducted a total of 426,117 tests.

Tobacco and Alcohol Control

Law No. 5/2011 - "Law of Smoking Prevention and Control", as amended by Law No. 13/2022, came into effect on 5 December 2022. The Health Bureau continued to promote a smoke-free environment through legislation, law enforcement, publicity and education, and incentives for quitting smoking. Law No. 6/2023 – "Regime of Prevention and Control of Underage Alcohol Consumption" came into effect on 5 November 2023, aiming to reduce the health risks or damage to minors that may arise from the consumption of alcoholic beverages. In 2023, following the approach of tobacco and alcohol control, a total of 285,339 inspections were conducted at various types of establishments regulated by the law, with a total of 3,147 prosecutions for breaches of the tobacco control law and two for breaches of the alcohol control law.

Pharmaceutical Supervision

In accordance with By-law No. 35/2021, the MSAR Government set up the Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau on 1 January 2022. The new bureau's jurisdiction includes 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 medical devices, and the management of drug and related product advertising activities. 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.

As of December 2023, the pharmaceutical establishments with licences issued by the Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau included 341 pharmaceutical stores, 132 Chinese herbal stores, 23 pharmaceutical dealers, 164 import and export wholesale stores, three Western pharmaceutical factories and six Chinese medicine pharmaceutical factories. Among these, two Western pharmaceutical factories and one Chinese medicine pharmaceutical factory (granule production line) comply with the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for Pharmaceutical Products.

As of December 2023, there were 35,326 western medicines circulating in Macao, including 11,412 over-the-counter medicines, 21,891 prescription medicines and 2,023 medicines for hospital use only. There were also 3,920 traditional Chinese medicines and 274 natural medicines circulating in Macao.

There were 827 licensed pharmacists, 27 licensed Chinese medicine practitioners, and 339 pharmacy technician assistants in Macao as of December 2023.

Macao's Major Hospitals

Conde S. Januario Hospital

Conde S. Januario Hospital is a modern Government medical institution with advanced and comprehensive facilities. It has 29 specialist departments providing 73 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 2023 Conde S. Januario Hospital had 442 doctors, 1,129 nurses and 1,197 beds (1,081 inpatient beds and 116 outpatient beds). It received 493,139 outpatients and 288,238 emergency cases and 23,744 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 has a 153-year history. 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 2023, the hospital had 2,144 staff: 390 doctors, 663 nurses, 178 technical professionals and 913 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 2023, its emergency and outpatient departments treated over 1,437,065 patients, an average of 4,412 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 hospital's inpatient department has 108 beds, with 60 beds in inpatient department and 48 beds in the haemodialysis centre.

The Islands Healthcare Complex – Macao Medical Centre of Peking Union Medical College Hospital

The Islands Healthcare Complex - Macao Medical Centre of Peking Union Medical College Hospital, abbreviated as "Macao Union Hospital", is the largest medical complex in Macao. The hospital spans over 76,000 square metres of land, with a total built area of about 430,000 square metres. With 26 operating rooms, Macao Union Hospital is designed to provide more than 1,000 beds upon the completion of the Islands Rehabilitation Hospital. The hospital complex incorporates the Macao Hospital, the Logistics and Support Building, the Residential Building for Staff, the Administration and Multi-Services Building, and the Central Laboratory Building.

Macao Union Hospital is an important cooperation project between the Macao SAR and mainland China in the healthcare sector, the first of its kind, under the policy of "One Country, Two Systems". Macao Union Hospital will build upon the philosophy, expertise, technologies, resources, and culture of Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH). While priority will be given to recruiting Macao residents, Macao Union Hospital will also include a team of prominent experts from PUMCH, and top specialists recruited from around the world on an as-needed basis, thus improving the city's ability to diagnose and treat severe, advanced, and rare diseases, and leveraging Macao's institutional advantages in the importation of advanced medicines and medical equipment to provide more choices of medical treatment to its residents and tourists.

On 20 December 2023, a ceremony for the commencement of trial operations was held at Macao Union Hospital. Subsequently, the islands emergency station of Conde S. Januario Hospital was the first to move in, and commenced operations on 21 December, providing 24-hour emergency services. It formally opened on 16 September 2024.

For more information:

Statistic and Census Service (<http://www.dsec.gov.mo>)

Health Bureau (<http://www.ssm.gov.mo>)

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