

Pilot Scheme for Supporting Patients of the Hospital Authority in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What is the background for the Pilot Scheme?

To enable Hong Kong citizens to develop, live and reside in the Mainland, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) launched the Pilot Scheme for Supporting Patients of the Hospital Authority in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Pilot Scheme) on 10 May 2023, so that patients with scheduled appointments at designated Specialist Outpatient Clinics (SOPCs) or Family Medicine Clinics (FMCs) (formerly General Outpatient Clinics (GOPCs)) of the Hospital Authority (HA) can choose to receive subsidised consultations at the University of Hong Kong – Shenzhen Hospital (HKU-SZH). With a view to provide Hong Kong people with more choices when receiving HA's services, the Government now extends the Pilot Scheme for one year so as to enable eligible HA patients to choose to receive subsidised consultation services at the HKU-SZH from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Q2. When will the Pilot Scheme expire?

The Pilot Scheme extends for one year to 31 March 2026.

Q3. Who will be eligible to join?

Eligible[#] Persons with scheduled follow-up appointments (appointment date between 17 February 2020 and 31 March 2026) at the designated* SOPCs and FMCs (formerly GOPCs) of HA could choose to receive subsidised consultation services at designated specialties at Outpatient Medical Centers of HKU-SZH up to 31 March 2026. There is no residential restriction or requirement for Eligible Patient joining the Pilot Scheme.

[[#]Definition of Eligible Persons: (i) holders of Hong Kong Identity Card issued under the Registration of Persons Ordinance (Chapter 177), except those who obtained their Hong Kong Identity Card by virtue of a previous permission to land or remain in Hong Kong granted to them and such permission has expired or ceased to be valid; (ii) children who are Hong Kong residents and under 11 years of age; or (iii) other persons approved by the Chief Executive of the HA]

[*Covers Anaesthesiology (only Pain Clinic), Cardiothoracic Surgery, Clinical Oncology, Ear, Nose and Throat, Eye, Gynaecology, Medicine, Neurosurgery, Obstetrics, Orthopaedics & Traumatology, Paediatrics and Surgery.]

Q4. What is the scope of services under the Scheme?

The service scope, framework and arrangements of the extended Pilot Scheme will remain largely the same as those at present. The Pilot Scheme enables HA's eligible patients to choose to receive outpatient consultation sessions at designated Outpatient Medical Centres in HKU-SZH to address their medical need for chronic disease, with routine imaging and investigations covered. Normal medications will be prescribed to patients with the amount according to clinical needs and regulations of Shenzhen City Government (up to 3 months for Diabetes and Hypertension).

Under the Pilot Scheme, specialties provided at HKU-SZH include all available expertise in HKU-SZH, which include Family Medicine Clinics (Chronic Diseases), Medicine Clinic, Surgery Clinic (include Otorhinolaryngology, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Neurosurgery), Ophthalmology Clinic, Anesthesiology Clinic (Pain Clinic only), Gynaecology Clinic, Obstetrics Clinic, Oncology Clinic, Orthopedic Clinic and Pediatric Clinic. Episodic illnesses, in-patient, day patient and emergency services are not included in the Pilot Scheme. Endoscopy, tissue biopsy and PET-CT examinations will not be covered as well. For utilisation of the subsidy under the Pilot Scheme, eligible patients are required to attend consultations at designated specialties provided at HKU-SZH that correspond with the designated SOPCs and/or FMCs (formerly GOPCs) of HA for which they have follow-up appointments.

Q5. What is the principle for the subsidisation?

Every participating patient is subject to a subsidy cap of RMB2,000 from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. Participating eligible patients will be required to pay a consultation fee of RMB100 for each subsidised consultation received at the HKU-SZH while the remaining fee will be subsidised by the Pilot Scheme. Fees beyond the subsidy cap should be paid by the patients to HKU-SZH directly. The consultation fee payable by eligible patients will be adjusted on 1 January 2026 in accordance with the specialist out-patient consultation fee as set under the fees and charges reform for public healthcare. The Government will announce the details in due course.

Q6. How could the patient be entitled to be waived the co-payment part?

Under the Pilot Scheme and subject to the amount subsidy, a patient of the following would be entitled to be waived consultation fee of RMB100:

1. Recipients of Hong Kong Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA); or
2. Recipients of Hong Kong Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) aged 75 or above;
or
3. Civil servants, pensioners or their eligible dependents who are eligible for medical and dental benefits within the civil service; or
4. HA staff, retirees or their eligible dependents who are eligible for medical and dental benefits within the HA.

Q7. Under the Pilot Scheme, could a patient use the HKSAR Government Elderly Health Care Voucher for the co-payment?

No. Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme is not applicable for the co-payment under the Pilot Scheme.

Q8. How could the patient know the balance amount of the subsidy under the Pilot Scheme?

After receiving service each time at a consultation visit in HKU-SZH, a patient needs to sign a consent form to HKU-SZH for receiving the Out-patient Service, and HKU-SZH would provide a record which lists out the service charge and the corresponding balance amount of the subsidy, for the patient's record.

Q9. If an enrolled patient of the Pilot Scheme wishes to continue participating in the Pilot Scheme, what should the patient do?

For an existing patient of the Pilot Scheme who wishes to continue participating in the Scheme, he/she should raise the request to HKU-SZH and complete the 'Pilot Scheme for Supporting Patients of the Hospital Authority in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area – Participant Declaration and Confirmation Reply' to complete necessary procedures. For utilisation of the subsidy under the Pilot Scheme, patients are required to attend consultations at designated specialties provided at HKU-SZH that correspond with the designated SOPCs and/or FMCs (formerly GOPCs) of HA for which they have follow-up appointments. For those existing patients with personal

information updated, they need to submit new application to HKU-SZH. (Please refer to Q22 of FAQs for details)

Q10. For patients who joined the Pilot Scheme before 31 March 2025, could the remaining balance amount of the subsidy still be used after 31 March 2025?

The remaining balance amount of the subsidy for patients who joined the Pilot Scheme before 31 March 2025 expired on 31 March 2025.

Q11. How can an eligible patient who had never participated in the Pilot Scheme join the Pilot Scheme?

For an eligible patient who had never participated in the Pilot Scheme but wishes to join the Pilot Scheme, he/she should read the Participant Information Notice, and submit the application to HKU-SZH with completed application form, together with the supporting documents and follow-up appointment slip from HA designated SOPC or FMC (formerly GOPC) (if available). Apart from applying in-person, patient may also scan the QR code of WeChat (For use in Mainland) to submit their application via WeChat App, for details, please refer to HKU-SZH website.

*Please scan the WeChat 2D barcode
for filling the electronic application
form (For use in Mainland)*



HKU-SZH will send, in encrypted format, the application forms with the supporting documents to the Electronic Health Record (eHR) Registration Office (RO) and HA for the purpose to verify the patient's identity / status for eligibility to participate and for fee waiver status (if applicable) and related authorisation purposes. The application form includes application for registration in the Hong Kong Electronic Health Record Sharing System (eHRSS) (if applicable) and submission of a Data Access Request (DAR) to eHR RO for electronic health records on eHRSS, and authorisation for HKU-SZH to obtain and use the copy of the relevant electronic health record so that relevant medical staff can provide them with appropriate medical services. Registration to eHRSS is voluntary, alternatively patient could authorise relatives in Hong Kong to apply medical record from HA according to prevailing mechanism and deliver to patient, for participating in the Pilot Scheme.

Upon receiving confirmation and medical records from relevant parties, HKU-SZH will arrange consultation for the patient. For utilisation of the subsidy under the Pilot Scheme, patients are required to attend consultations at designated specialties provided at HKU-SZH that correspond with the designated SOPCs and/or FMCs (formerly GOPCs) of HA for which they have follow-up appointments. The patient is required to provide supporting documents used in the application upon the visit for authentication.

HKU-SZH will arrange the consultation visit to the patient according to their follow-up appointment in HA as well as HKU-SZH's clinic arrangement, but not under "first-come-first-served" basis.

Q12. What are the required supporting documents for application to the Pilot Scheme?

Patient shall provide the following documents to HKU-SZH for joining the Pilot Scheme:

1. Valid designated SOPC or FMC (formerly GOPC) follow-up appointment slip from HA (appointment date between 17 February 2020 and 31 March 2026) (if available);
2. Hong Kong Identity Document;
3. Mainland Travel Permit for Hong Kong and Macao Residents*, and
4. Completed application form.
5. Patient aged below 16 is required to provide birth certificate and Hong Kong Identity Document (if applicable), Mainland Travel Permit for Hong Kong and Macao Residents, appointment slip (if available), together with Hong Kong Identity Document, Mainland Travel Permit for Hong Kong and Macao Residents and the signature of the substitute decision maker.

[*If patients cannot provide Mainland Travel Permit for Hong Kong and Macao Residents, identity document issued by the government authority, or used for entry to the Mainland, e.g. Passport, Residence Permit for Hong Kong and Macao Residents could be submitted instead.]

Q13. If patients joined Pilot Scheme, would their follow-up appointments in HA for the corresponding out-patient services be cancelled?

To ensure patients receiving optimal treatment, once the patient participated in the Pilot Scheme and after first subsidised out-patient services (e.g. consultation) at HKU-SZH,

the patient's follow-up appointments in HA for the corresponding out-patient services would be cancelled.

Q14. What measures would be taken under Pilot Scheme if an enrolled patient who received subsidised out-patient clinic services of the Pilot Scheme at the relevant departments of the HKU-SZH, and attended follow-up consultations at the corresponding SOPCs or FMCs (formerly GOPCs) of the HA in parallel throughout the period of the Pilot Scheme?

To ensure patients receiving optimal treatment and more effective utilisation of resources, patients participating in the Pilot Scheme have to agree that if they have received subsidised out-patient clinic services of the Pilot Scheme at the relevant departments of the HKU-SZH, they would not attend follow-up consultations at the corresponding SOPCs or FMCs (formerly GOPCs) of HA in parallel throughout the period of the Pilot Scheme (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026). If a patient is found to have violated the relevant terms^{Remark}, his/ her subsidy account under the Pilot Scheme will be frozen until 31 March 2026.

Upon patient's request for withdrawal from the Pilot Scheme or subject to clinic needs, HKU-SZH would refer the patient back to the corresponding out-patient clinics of the HA for arranging follow-up appointment.

Remark

1. *The departments of the HKU-SZH attended by individual patients may change with their clinical conditions and the departments concerned may differ from the corresponding specialties of the HA. For details, please contact the HKU-SZH or the HA. If necessary, the HKU-SZH will jointly review the relevant cases (including their medical records) with the HA to verify if the patient has received subsidised out-patient services under the Pilot Scheme from the relevant departments of the HKU-SZH while attending medical follow-up at corresponding SOPCs/ FMCs (formerly GOPCs) of the HA.*
2. *Please note that if patients receive follow-up consultations for **same diagnosis/ disease** in-parallel at HKU-SZH under Specialty for Family Medicine Clinics (Chronic Diseases), and at corresponding out-patient clinic(s) at HA (including Family Medicine Integrated Centres, FMCs and SOPCs (Internal Medicine Clinics), etc.), the patients would also be regarded as having violated the terms.*

3. *This does not apply to patients who return to the HA for follow-up consultations due to their subsidy of RMB2,000 have been exhausted.*
4. *If violation of the relevant terms is confirmed, the Pilot Scheme Designated Office will reserve the right to freeze the patient's subsidy account under the Pilot Scheme.*

Q15. How are patient's medical records obtained and used between HKU-SZH and HA?

To ensure that patient receives appropriate treatment, the Government allows patient with eHRSS registration to submit with the assistance of HKU-SZH a DAR with eHR RO, and HKU-SZH after obtaining the patient's consent can collect and use the copy medical records for providing medical services.

Meanwhile, HKU-SZH will provide a consultation summary including prescriptions to the patient upon each consultation visit, to facilitate the patient's follow-up treatment in HA.

Q16. How are the patient privacy and data security protected when transferring the medical records?

With the patient's consent, eHR RO will send the copy of the patient's records to HKU-SZH in encrypted format. HKU-SZH shall ensure that only designated person could read and use the relevant patient's records under "need-to-know" and "patient under care" principles.

Q17. Will the drug prescribed to the patient by the HKU-SZH align with HA?

HKU-SZH will prescribe drug to patient according to the drug list under the public hospitals of Mainland and subject to clinical judgement.

Q18. Do patients need to submit all appointment slips if they are having follow-up appointments with multiple specialties in HA?

If patients have the appointment slips of multiple specialties under designated SOPCs and FMCs (formerly GOPCs) of HA falling within the designated period as specified by the Pilot Scheme, they shall submit all the relevant appointment slips to HKU-SZH upon application to facilitate clinical assessment. (Please refer to Q3* of FAQs for details)

Q19. Is signature by stamp or thumbprint considered valid for application?

Signature by stamp or thumbprint would be considered valid if patients are capable of giving consent but incapable of writing.

Q20. Do the patients need to send the application number to HA or HKU-SZH after submitted the application via WeChat App?

Not required. After HA or other authorised government department have received required information, verification of patient's identity and eligibility checking will be carried out. Upon received the verification results, HKU-SZH will arrange the consultation visit to the patients according to their follow-up appointment in HA as well as HKU-SZH's clinic arrangement. Please keep the Application number for future enquiry and other use.

Q21. What do patients need to do if they plan to withdraw from the Pilot Scheme and wish to return and attend follow-up appointment in SOPCs or FMCs (formerly GOPCs) of HA?

Patients should raise the request to HKU-SZH to withdraw from the Pilot Scheme, HKU-SZH shall, subject to the clinical needs, refer patients back to HA for follow-up appointment for the corresponding out-patient services. Patients shall ensure that they have sufficient stock of drug until their next follow-up appointment.

When attending follow-up appointments in HA, patients should provide the consultation summary, prescriptions summary and receipt of Pilot Scheme service record issued by HKU-SZH upon consultation visit to facilitate their follow-up treatment in HA.

Q22. Could amendment(s) to application form be made or supporting document(s) be updated after submission of the application?

If an applicant would like to make amendment(s) to the submitted application, applicant needs to re-submit a completed application form to HKU-SZH, together with the supporting documents and follow-up appointment slip of relevant HA designated SOPC

or FMC (formerly GOPC) (if available). Applicant should check the documents submitted and ensure that the content of the attached documents/ images could be clearly seen.

Q23. How does one obtain more information of the Pilot Scheme?

For more details, please contact the following:

HKU-SZH (during office hour[#]):

Email address: abc@hku-szh.org

Telephone: (+86) 0755-86913101

Website: www.hku-szh.org/en/index.html

([#] Working day: 8:00am to 12:30pm, 2:00pm to 5:30pm, excluded weekends and Public Holidays)

HA Designated Office of Pilot Scheme (during office hour^{*}):

Email address: sss@ha.org.hk

Telephone: (+852) 2300-7070

(*Monday to Friday – 9:00am to 6:00pm, excluded Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays)

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