

\* *Teacher's version P.15-18*

(Activity 4: Mini-Debate: "Hong Kong SAR Government should increase the fees for emergency medical services in public hospitals")

**Task 1: Read the following article and discuss the questions.**

### **Fees for Accident and Emergency Services in Public Hospitals**

In 2000, the unit cost of emergency medical services at the casualty wards of public hospitals was about HK\$470. But the services recipients did not need to pay any fees. Patients needed to wait for about two to three hours for the services.

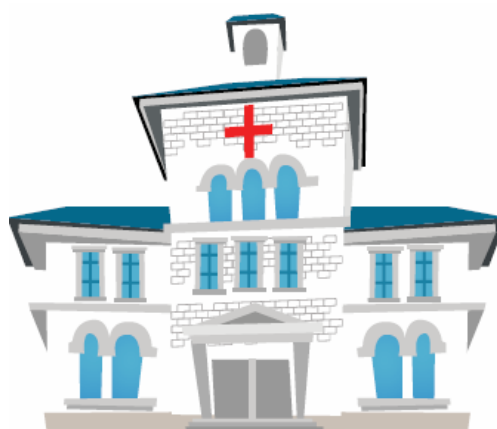
In 2001-02, the Hong Kong Hospital Authority (HKHA) found that there were 2.5 million patients receiving emergency medical services in public hospitals. The semi-urgent or non-urgent cases accounted for about 75%.

Starting from November 2002, HKHA charged HK\$100 for emergency medical services provided in public hospitals. Patients with financial difficulties may apply for a fee waiver.

In 2006-07, out of the about two million recipients of emergency medical services, 1.34 million (68%) were semi-urgent or non-urgent cases. The average waiting time of non-urgent cases ranged from 70 minutes to 98 minutes. Those non-urgent cases in the New Territories West would wait from 100 minutes to 102 minutes.

Sources:

1. Press Release, SHWF assures the public of adequate medical care despite fees increase, Food and Health Bureau, 5 November 2002. ( <http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200211/05/1105194.htm> )
2. Ming Pao, 14 June 2007.



**Discussion Questions:**

Q.1 (Pair A)

Explain how the charge of \$100 for emergency medical services affects the efficiency of using emergency medical services in public hospitals.

---

---

---

---

---

Q.2 (Pair B)

Explain how the charge of \$100 for emergency medical services affects the post-tax post-social transfer income distribution of the patients receiving emergency medical services in public hospital.

---

---

---

---

---

**Task 2: Mini- debate**

**“Hong Kong SAR Government should increase the fees for emergency medical services in public hospitals.”**