<u>Serious impact on public hospital</u> services

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Hospital Authority (HA) made the following announcement today (February 5).

As a large number of staff members are anticipated to be absent from duty, emergency services in public hospitals will be affected to a certain extent today.

All public hospital Accident and Emergency Department can only focus their limited number of staff on duty to the provision of emergency services. The HA appeals to patients with mild condition to seek consultation at private hospitals and doctors.

Specialist Outpatient Clinics can provide limited services and patients are advised to reschedule their appointments by contacting the clinics. Patients can go to the clinics to refill their drugs if required.

In the interests of patients, the HA appeals to all healthcare workers who have not yet reported for duty to return to work the soonest to provide the patient services in need.

The HA thanked the staff who have stayed on duty today to maintain emergency services as far as possible.