

S7.2

Geriatric Care

09:00 Convention Hall C

Frail Elderly Care Model in Emergency Medicine Ward, Queen Elizabeth Hospital*Wong G**Accident and Emergency Department, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hong Kong*

The population in Hong Kong reached more than 7.3 million in 2016, and is expected to rise to 8.2 million in 2043. During the same period, the elderly population (aged over 65) rose from 16% in 2016 to 23% in 2024, and then 33% in 2044. Over the decade, Yau Tsim Mong area as well as Kowloon District experienced the largest population growth; and Wong Tai Sin district has the highest proportion of elderly population.

It is no wonder that the Accident and Emergency Department (AED) of Queen Elizabeth Hospital is experiencing increasingly heavy service demand – the highest triage categories one to three attendance, highest number of inpatients by ambulance, and most importantly highest elderly attendance by those aged 65 and above. In order to uphold the quality of care to our patients, new service and care model have been devised – Emergency Medicine Ward (EMW) is one major endeavor among the AEDs in Hong Kong. Over the years, EMW has proven to be a suitable platform for protocol-driven care plan, as well as a hub for multi-disciplinary service and cross-specialty collaboration to expedite patient management.

Frail Elderly Care Model is not new to healthcare system in other parts of the world. The opening of our second EMW by the end of year 2015 has provided opportunity for trial of this service model – Frail Elderly Service. This model incorporates multi-disciplinary team management of emergency physicians and nurse, geriatric-trained nurses, and allied health professionals. The Frailty Team will target medical problems as well as psycho-social needs of the elderly, who may be suffering from psychosomatic complaints, mobility imbalance and frequent fall, caring problems etc. The comprehensive team approach will expedite the in-hospital management with shortened length of stay and also decongest the hospital as a whole. The recruitment of a geriatrician to the Team recently will further strengthen the Team's professional expertise, enable safe discharge and divert patients to the most appropriate level and area of care in the system.