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November 2005

## **Part II Fellowship Examination in Administrative Medicine**

### **Case Study 1**

As Chief Executive of an acute regional hospital, you were alerted by your Infection Control Nurse that your hospital has just admitted a suspected Avian Flu patient through Accident & Emergency Department (AED) at around 11am.

The patient in question was from Thailand working in Hong Kong as a domestic helper. She had just come back from Thailand after a 2 weeks' holidays with her family. During her stay there, 50+ chickens died in their farm within a short period of time with no apparent cause. She developed fever and cough on her 12<sup>th</sup> day in Thailand and was seen by a doctor. She apparently became better with some drug treatment before returning to Hong Kong 2 days later.

On arrival, she told her employer what happened, who in turn became very anxious. Immediately the employer took her to the AED of your hospital for diagnosis and treatment. The employer also has 2 young children, who are normally looked after by this domestic helper.

The patient was assessed and then admitted to the Medical ward. As the case involved several departments, "rumours" began to spread rapidly within hours of her admission.

Outline the key issues that you as Hospital Chief Executive would need to consider. Discuss your management plan of action to effectively deal with the situation.

## For Examiner

### *Identification of Key Issues*

- With the travel and contact history, this is a case of suspected human avian influenza.
- Within hospital
  - Infection control measures including use of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gown, goggles, gloves, mask.
  - Use of negative pressure room to isolate patient.
  - Institute rapid diagnostic test.
  - Manage staff : consider post exposure prophylaxis for those who are exposed.  
: consider pre exposure prophylaxis for those will be treating the patient.  
: enforce and strengthen infection control.
  - Manage patient's employer and her family.
  - Transparent communication within hospital.
- Outside hospital
  - Prompt notification to the health authorities.
  - Alert appropriate officers in accordance with protocol.
  - Agree designated person to handle external communication.

### *Management Plan of Action*

- Ensure accurate facts are available promptly for decision making.
- Consider putting together a multidisciplinary team of experts to advise on the management of the case – infectious disease physician, virologist, infection control nurse, public relations staff.
- Patient management
  - Treat as a case of Avian Influenza until proven otherwise.
  - Full precautionary measures with use of full PPE and isolation facilities.
  - Arrange appropriate investigations including rapid test on H<sub>5</sub> PCR.
  - Implement strict patient transport protocol.
- Management of employer and her family
  - If symptomatic, treat as patients.
  - If asymptomatic and not at risk, inform health authority to undertake contact tracing and other measures.
- Implement hospital-wide measures
  - Strengthen infection control measures: hands washing, personal and environmental hygiene, use of PPE.
  - Heighten staff vigilance and strengthen use of triage FTOCC table: Fever, Travel history, Occupation, Contact history and Clustering of cases.
  - Consider visiting policy.
- Alert appropriate health authorities and relevant officers.
- Communication
  - Internal: with staff, governing board, visitors.
  - External: with the general public.

*Pass candidate* - will have covered most of the points above.

*Outstanding candidate* - capable of discussing the above in depth.