



### Initiative on specialist support for the construction of Chinese General Practitioner System

A medical service system with a clear hierarchy of care and proper allocation of resources assures the delivery of good medical services. Within this system, primary health care institutions have an important responsibility as “health gatekeepers”. These institutions mainly undertake tasks such as: disease prevention, health management, rehabilitation, emergency treatment, and common ailments treatment. The range of human capital resources required include general practitioner (GP), clinical nurses, public health physicians (public health nurses) and others.

For some historical reasons, the primary health institutions in China have developed slowly, health workers' technical abilities tend to be lower and properly qualified GPs are in short supply. The Chinese government is further developing General Practice and adopting a system of “Graded diagnosis and treatment”. With this background, as specialists from big hospitals, our initiatives are as follow:

1. Work to change the perception and support the development of general practice.

The GP is a doctor with a range of abilities and skills across the health spectrum. They have extensive knowledge, strong

humanistic emotion and good communication abilities. They deserve respect from all medical staff members. They should be acknowledged across the whole of society for their unique skills and contribution to preventive health care and controlling health care costs.

2. Develop general practice as a discipline and train GPs.

Big hospitals should take the development of general practice to be their social responsibility and future mission. They must strive to create conditions for the establishment of general practice. Big hospitals should unite with adjacent community health service centers or health clinics in towns and townships to establish GP training centers. Apart from general practice work within the hospital, it is the big hospitals' responsibility to train our GPs, undertake scientific research and carry on GP's in-service training. Big hospital should also contribute to the establishment of a good GP team in their regions.

3. Establish a cooperation mechanism between GP and other health workers, and support classification of treatments.

The relationship between general practice and other medical disciplines is close. A mechanism which could help GPs and other



specialists to have clearly assigned tasks, make them help each other and cooperate together should be established. Through various types of supporting work, we will try our best to improve the technical skill level of secondary hospitals, and then direct them to help primary health care institutions to improve skills and abilities. Through this process, the health care delivery ability of primary health institutions will improve rapidly. This will lead to building up local residents' trust, patients will look more to the primary health centers and the pressure on big hospitals will be released. Finally, the public will have a better experience when seeing a doctor in a big hospital.

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