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Adequate medical services kept up

The Medical and Health Department would "give every support to the Kwong Wah Hospital" to tide it over its present doctor shortage problem, the Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr Gerald Choa, said.

Dr Choa was replying to Dr Harry Fang, who asked whether the department would step in to help the hospital maintain adequate services following the recent resignation of a number of doctors.

Dr Choa said his department was informed last week that 10 medical officers in the medical unit of the Kwong Wah Hospital had resigned.

Since it was impossible for the remaining staff to deal with the total number of 420 beds in the unit, it was decided that 120 beds should be made available for cases transferred from medical units of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, which would remain responsible for their treatment and care, he said.

In addition, emergency cases are diverted to Queen Elizabeth Hospital between 9 am and 10 pm. These arrangements took effect from March 2.

To cope with the extra work load in Kwong Wah Hospital, three medical officers from Queen Elizabeth Hospital are looking after patients who have been transferred there, he said.

"Adequate medical services have been maintained in the medical unit of Kwong Wah Hospital in the way I have described and other units have not been affected."