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A healthy sign for Eastern

DOCTORS in Eastern District are expected to begin a cheap medical service after the Chinese New Year, according to Assistant Eastern District Officer, Matthew Cheung.

The pilot scheme was mooted by the City and New Territories Administration (CNTA) at a recent Eastern district board meeting.

Mr Cheung told the meeting that the CNTA had gathered information about all doctors practising in Eastern District, including general practitioners, specialists, Chinese herbalists and bone setters.

It will write to them after the Christmas holidays to seek their support to run a cheap medical service on a voluntary basis.

"Hopefully, the pilot scheme will begin after the Chinese New Year," he said.

In the letter, doctors will be asked to indicate whether they would be willing to offer a cheap service outside their normal

by
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consultation hours and answer emergency calls and treat patients on Sundays and public holidays.

Since Chaiwan is an industrial area and Eastern still lacks casualty facilities, doctors willing to answer emergency calls would be of considerable help, Mr Cheung said.

Regarding consultation fees, he said this was at the discretion of the doctors.

Doctors would join the pilot scheme strictly on voluntary basis, he added.

Dr Saw gave an assurance that in future serious cases treated at the Chaiwan Health Centre would be transferred directly to Queen Mary hospital without a stopover at Tangshiuin hospital.

On the proposed Eastern hospital project, he said the schedule of accommodation would be submitted to a standing committee for approval in early January.

However, pointing to some misunderstandings in certain newspaper reports, he said the schedule of accommodation was

not a blueprint - it was only a brief on the needs of various units housed in the hospital.

Meanwhile, the emergency and accident section of the Chaiwan Centre should be completed by early February at the latest, Dr T. Saw, Medical and Health Department representative, told the Eastern District Board.

Proposals on improving the facilities at the health centre to accommodate the new section, were approved in early December and alteration works began this week, he said.

The director of the department has also approved the professional and non-professional posts required for the section, Dr Saw said.

He also revealed that orders for equipment had been made to overseas suppliers and he believed the new section could be in operation by April next year.

The Building Development Department, with the assistance of the Medical and Health Department, would then upgrade the Eastern hospital project to category A upon the approval of the schedule, he said.

Funds would only then be allocated, he said.