



### **HKBCF welcomes broaden application of breast cancer drugs on drug formulary**

(HONG KONG- 15 FEB) The Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation welcomes the new initiative to extend the clinical application of breast cancer drugs on the Hospital Authority Drug Formulary. However statistics has shown that the number of people who need the medication is much larger than the estimate.

The government announced that HK\$16 million will be allocated to widen the use of breast cancer drugs on the Hospital Authority's Drug Formulary; 600 patients with breast cancer are expected to benefit from the relaxed prescription criteria for taxenes, and they will only have to pay a standard tariff.

According to the data of the Hong Kong Breast Cancer Registry ("BCR"), which was released in the Breast Cancer Facts in Hong Kong Report No. 3, 63.2% (2,190) of the cohort of 3,467 patients underwent chemotherapy treatment; 40 % of them had to use taxenes.

Dr. Lawrence Li, HKBCF Council Member said taxenes is one of the most widely used medications for breast cancer chemotherapy treatment. Every year, nearly 3,000 newly diagnosed breast cancer cases are identified. Based on the BCR data aforementioned, the projected number of people who need chemotherapy treatment of taxenes is more than 700. This figure is much higher than the authority's estimation.

Hong Kong Breast Cancer Foundation thus calls on the government to review the Drug Formulary and add more breast cancer drugs to the subsidised list, so more patients can be benefited.

*Breast Cancer Facts in Hong Kong Report No. 3*

[www.hkbcf.org/breastcancerregistry](http://www.hkbcf.org/breastcancerregistry)