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ESTABLISHING TAIWAN REFERRAL

STEPS for establishing Taiwan as a referral country for PNG patients requiring specialist services not available presently in PNG.

Recognising that early detection significantly improves the chances of successful treatment at lower costs, we propose the following steps for establishing Taiwan as a referral country for PNG patients requiring specialist services not available presently in PNG:

■ MEDICAL CHECK-UP AT PORT MORESBY GENERAL HOSPITAL:

Cancer patients and patients with other medical conditions requiring specified specialist services should undergo a medical evaluation at PMGH, before any referral is done. All Provincial Health Authorities are encouraged to utilize this avenue for their patients who may be able to afford such referrals.

■ **REFERRAL TO CHANG-HUA CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL:** If necessary, patients can be referred to Chang-hua Christian Hospital for further evaluation and treatment feasibility. A panel of Clinical Specialists from PMGH will perform respective medical evaluation and make recommendations for appropriate referrals to Chang-Hua Christian Hospital.

■ **PRESCRIPTION EVALUATION AND QUOTATION:** PMGH sends the patient's medical report to Chang-Hua Christian Hospital specialists for evaluation and provides a quotation for the cancer or other specialised medical treatment that is available in CCH.

■ **FINANCIAL COMMITMENT:** Upon agreement with the treatment quotation, the patient remits half of the treatment charge to Chang-hua Christian Hospital's account in advance and prepares to travel to Taiwan within one month.

■ **VISA ISSUANCE:** Chang-hua Christian Hospital informs the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in PNG of the patient's details, and the office issues the patient's visa within seven working days, or within 24 hours depending on the urgency of the medical condition.

According to Ambassador Ben Wang, representing the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in PNG: "by implementing these steps, we aim to establish a streamlined and efficient process for PNG cancer patients to access high-quality and affordable medical treatments in Taiwan, particularly at Chang-Hua Christian Hospital by close cooperation with PMGH.

"This initiative not only addresses the urgent healthcare needs in PNG but also fosters international collaboration for improved healthcare outcomes," he said.