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HKL director: Beds filling up due to Covid-19 cases

PETALING JAYA: The utilisation of beds at Hospital Kuala Lumpur (HKL) is rising due to an increase in Covid-19 admissions, which are mostly at stage four.

Hospital director Datuk Dr Heric Corray said bed management planning was constantly being carried out.

He said HKL had postponed elective surgeries since December to prioritise emergency cases.

On the supply of oxygen, he said both the piping and cylinder types were adequate.

"HKL constantly follows up with supplier companies to ensure the supply process is always at the optimum level for oxygen requirements in HKL wards," he said in a statement.

Dr Corray explained that the

management of Covid-19 cases in HKL was supervised by the Central Region Covid-19 Unified Command Centre (UCC), which manages all Covid-19 cases in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur.

"Through arrangements from UCC, HKL will receive referrals of critical cases and emergencies such as from the Covid-19 Quarantine and Treatment Centre at Malaysia Agro Exposition Park in Serdang (MAEPS), Selangor, which is currently receiving stage one to stage two, and also stage three to stage four cases," he said.

On reports about bed capacity constraints and inadequate staff in the intensive care section, he said current ICU bed utilisation was high.

Dr Corray's statement came in

light of social media postings by several doctors about the dire situation at the hospital such as the case of a patient who was being treated on the floor in the Emergency and Trauma Department.

Dr Corray explained that the patient arrived at Emergency in a state of unconsciousness, without a pulse and was not breathing.

"At that time, all available beds were being used and it was found that the floor had the best flat surface, so CPR was performed immediately. However, the patient could not be saved," he said.

On Friday, some HKL doctors posted on social media that the hospital's emergency department had insufficient beds to accommodate the increasing number of patients, that the hospital's eight wards were

full, and in need of ventilators and oxygen tanks.

These doctors shared images, describing how CPR was carried out on the floor.

Such challenging situations are allegedly occurring at Hospital Sungai Buloh and Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah in Klang.

Addressing the image of another patient being treated while lying on the floor, Dr Corray explained it was an emergency case in which the patient was suffering from seizures and thus was at risk of falling off a canvas bed.

"For safety reasons and to ensure immediate treatment, the patient was made to rest on the right side to prevent saliva from entering the pulmonary tract, which could be a risk for the patient," he said.