

LegCo Panel on Home Affairs

Subcommittee to Study Discrimination on the Ground of Sexual Orientation

Provision of Public Health Care

Purpose

This paper briefs members on the approach adopted by the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority in the provision of public health care services to members of the public.

Provision of Public Health Care Services

2. The Department of Health and the Hospital Authority offer health care services to all members of the public equitably and without discrimination. In the provision of health care services to patients, all professional health carers in the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority are bound by the International Code of Medical Ethics and the professional codes of conduct promulgated by the relevant licensing authorities. The provision of competent and non-discriminatory professional services has always been the value and culture of health care providers. The investigation or treatment that a professional health carer provides or arranges must be based on his/her clinical judgment of a patient's needs and the likely effectiveness of the treatment on the patient. A patient's lifestyle, culture, beliefs, race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, age, or social status should not prejudice the treatment a health carer provides or arranges. Any health carer who practices or provides care in a discriminatory manner, whether or not on the ground of sexual orientation, may be deemed to have violated the International Code of Medical Ethics or the relevant professional code of conduct, and may be liable to sanction.

Advise Sought

3. Members are requested to note the contents of this paper.

**Heath and Welfare Bureau
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