

Our ref.: HWF/H/LEG/32 05
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3 November 2005

Clerk to Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Doris CHAN)

Dear Ms Chan,

**LegCo Panel on Health Services
Meeting on 28 June 2005**

At the captioned meeting, Panel members asked the Administration to consider whether the purchase of cough preparations containing codeine at a level of more than 0.2% should require doctor's prescription. Accordingly we have referred the suggestion to the Pharmacy and Poisons Board, the statutory body tasked to regulate pharmaceutical products. Having considered the potency, toxicity and potential side effects of the medicine, the Board agreed to the suggestion. The Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food intends to move a motion on 23 November 2005 with a view to amending the Poisons List Regulations and the Pharmacy and Poisons Regulations to this effect.

Yours sincerely,

(Eric SF CHENG)
for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food