

Panel on Health Services

List of follow-up actions

(Position as at 3 May 2006)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
1. Requiring doctors to purchase insurance to indemnify patients for medical negligence or malpractice as a condition to practise medicine	8 March 2004	Hon CHAN Yuen-han requested to discuss this item.	The Administration is following up with the Medical Council.
2. Budget deficit of Hospital Authority	8 November 2004	The Administration agreed to try as far as possible to provide a paper on the measures taken/to be taken in the coming year to address the budget deficit of HA, including how the fees should be tackled.	The Administration will provide a written response in due course.
3. Increase in professional indemnity insurance premiums	14 March 2005	The Administration undertook to provide a paper on professional indemnity insurance premiums and related issues.	The Administration will submit an information paper in due course.

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4. Hospital fees and charges - non-eligible persons and private patients	13 June 2005	<p>The Administration -</p> <p>(a) to provide further information on the costs of providing private service at individual public hospitals for different specialties with different levels of expertise;</p> <p>(b) to provide further information on whether the introduction of the revised fees for private services would lengthen the waiting time for patients seeking public health service at different specialties in individual public hospitals, and if so, the extent of the impact; and</p> <p>(c) should consult the Panel again before gazettal of the proposed fee revision.</p>	The Administration will provide a written response in due course.
5. Regulation of medical devices in Hong Kong - Recent progress	19 July 2005	<p>The Administration -</p> <p>(a) to provide a supplementary written response to the concern raised by Ms LI Fung-ying about training and related matters; and</p> <p>(b) should revert to the Panel on the operation of the regulatory system in due course.</p>	<p>The Administration will provide a written response in due course.</p> <p>The Administration will submit an information paper in due course.</p>

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6. Proposed creation of a new commitment of \$200 million to deal with a possible outbreak of H5N1 influenza in humans	14 November 2005	The Administration was requested to consider the creation of a new commitment of \$200 million to deal with a possible outbreak of H5N1 influenza in humans.	The Administration will provide a written response in due course.
7. Guidelines on implementation of the Undesirable Medical Advertisements (Amendment) Ordinance 2005	12 December 2005	The Administration was requested to plug the loophole that some manufacturers might deliberately state a claim or disclaimer in the English language only by making the product label and the advertisement wholly or mainly in the English language, in its future review of the implementation of the Amendment Ordinance. Schedule 4 of the Amendment Ordinance reads "If both the product label and the advertisement are wholly or mainly in the English or Chinese language, any claim or disclaimer may be limited to that language".	The Administration noted members' views and this will be taken on board in the future review of the Ordinance.

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8. Notification of infectious diseases between the Mainland and Hong Kong	9 January 2006	<p>The Administration agreed to the following -</p> <p>(a) take up with the Mainland health authorities concerned on the possibility of notifying Hong Kong of all suspected cases of infectious diseases prior to laboratory confirmation of such cases;</p> <p>(b) provide information on the time required for the Mainland side to notify Hong Kong of each confirmed case of infectious disease occurred in the Mainland in recent years; and</p> <p>(c) provide a note on the progress made in using Chinese and western medicines in treating patients suffering from infectious diseases.</p>	<p>The Administration's response for (a) was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1461/05-06(01) on 20 March 2006, and will provide a written response for (b) and (c) in due course.</p>
9. Fees and charges for public health care services	13 February 2006	<p>The Administration would convey the Chairman's enquiry on when the Administration planned to implement new fees and charges for public health care services to the relevant public officers after the meeting and revert to the Secretariat.</p>	<p>The Administration will provide a written response in due course.</p>

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10. Incorporation of organ donation details in Hong Kong's smart identity card	13 February 2006	The Administration agreed to submit a progress report in due course on the work it had done in storing a person's organ donation details through electronic means.	The Administration will provide a written response in due course.
11. Misleading or exaggerated claims made by slimming/fat reduction products and services provided by beauty parlours	20 March 2006	The Administration was requested - (a) to provide information on the number of inspections undertaken by the Department of Health (DH) to slimming centres in a year; (b) to check with the Broadcasting Authority (BA) on how it ensured that weight loss advertisements aired by licensed television and radio service providers and shown by bus companies on public buses would not be addressed to persons under the age of 18; (c) to provide information on the ingredients found in the samples of health food products purchased for laboratory analysis to see if they contained any western medicine ingredients after the meeting;	The Administration will provide a written response in due course.

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		<p>(d) to find out from BA on how the provision on requiring licensed television and radio service providers to check whether the advertised products or services were likely to be effective and would not cause harm to the consumers was applied in practice;</p> <p>(e) to step up unannounced visits to slimming centres and call upon doctors to report to DH if they had patients coming to them for treatment after consuming products provided to them by these centres;</p> <p>(f) to see how best the publicising of the results of regulatory actions against misleading or exaggerated claims made by slimming/fat reduction products and services provided by beauty parlours could be made more systematic, in consultation with the Consumer Council and the Economic Development and Labour Bureau;</p> <p>(g) to convey members' views on advertising of products and services on television and radio for BA for its consideration;</p>	

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		<p>(h) to consider banning the advertisements or even the sale of slimming products which had proven to be ineffective in achieving weight loss;</p> <p>(i) to explore how best the Administration might assist BA in ensuring the truthfulness of advertisements aired by licensed television and radio service providers; and</p> <p>(j) to provide the relevant papers on the background of and justifications for removing the requirement that all medical advertisements had to be pre-approved before they could be aired by licensed television and radio service providers.</p>	
12. Poison prevention and control	20 March 2006	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on the following -</p> <p>(a) enforcement work carried out by the Administration on the labelling of environmental chemicals; and</p> <p>(b) the numbers and breakdown of the nature of poisoning cases involving Chinese and western medicines in the latter half of 2005 after the meeting.</p>	The Administration will provide a written response in due course.

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13. Further discussion on regulation of health maintenance organisations	30 March 2006	The Administration was requested to provide a written response in three months' time on the measures it intended to take to regulate health maintenance organisations.	The Administration will provide a written response in due course.
14. Work pressure of health care practitioners in the Hospital Authority	10 April 2006	The Administration and the Hospital Authority (HA) were requested to provide a report to the Panel on the progress made in addressing the views and needs of health care practitioners in the HA in three months' time.	The Administration will provide a written response in due course.
15. Revision of fees and charges for services not directly affecting people's livelihood under the purview of Department of Health	10 April 2006	The Administration was requested to provide the following in writing - (a) an explanation on why some fees, as set out in Annex A to the Administration's paper, were last revised as far back as in 1989; and (b) the cost recovery of fees relating to the Licensing Examination for medical practitioners in other jurisdictions.	The Administration will provide a written response in due course.