



LC Paper No. CB(2)747/06-07(01)

中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部衛生福利及食物局
Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
Government Secretariat, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
The People's Republic of China

本函編號 Our ref.: HWE/1/19
來函編號 Your ref.:

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29 December 2006

Clerk to Panel
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
8 Jackson Road
Central
(Attn: Ms Amy Yu)

Dear Ms Yu,

Review of Hospital Authority Drug Formulary

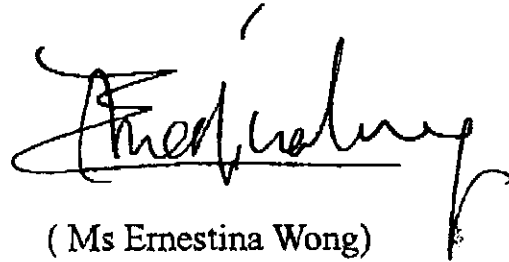
Item 9 on the list of follow-up actions in LC Paper No. CB(2)555/06-07(02) refers. During the discussion on the Review of Hospital Authority (HA) Drug Formulary on 10 July 2006, a Member asked for the following information in relation to self-financed item (SFI) drugs –

- (a) the number of patients involved, the average monthly cost borne by each patient for purchasing SFI drugs and which SFI drugs were covered by the Samaritan Fund as a safety net; and
- (b) the impact of SFI drugs on HA patients before and after the implementation of the Formulary.

On (a), the information was provided to Members of the Panel vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 3090/05-06 on 26 September 2006. On

(b), a key objective of the implementation of the Drug Formulary is to standardise drug utilisation across public hospitals and clinics and ensure patients in similar clinical conditions would have similar access to drug therapy. This includes the prescription of self-financed drugs to patients and eliminates inconsistent practices by various public hospitals and clinics, e.g. situations where patients at certain locations might be able to gain access to certain drugs on a self-finance basis while doctors at other locations would refuse to provide the prescription for the same drugs. Due to the varying practices before the implementation of the Drug Formulary, the HA was not able to compare the overall impact of self-financed drugs before and after implementation.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Ernestina Wong)
for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

cc CE/HA (Attn: Dr W L Cheung)