



香港執業藥劑師協會
THE PRACTISING PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG

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Date: 21st September 2006

Dr. Hon Kwok.Ka-ki,
Chairman
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
HKSAR

Dear Dr Kwok,

Panel on Health Services Special Meeting September 25th 2006
Agenda - I. Further discussion on review of Hospital Authority drug formulary –
the supply of self-financed drugs in public hospitals

This submission is prepared and written by the Practising Pharmacists Association of Hong Kong on behalf of its 500 pharmacist members who work mostly in the pharmacies in the community sector.

First of all, it is necessary to point out that in Hong Kong, by the unique nature of its health service delivery model, the system of Primary Healthcare is not fully established. Primary Healthcare integration system should be introduced in line with the Health Welfare & Food Bureau directive and the key of success in the Primary Healthcare System is “Patient and Preventive Care” through “Collaboration”.

“Neighbourhood Pharmacy” with the enhanced services will be the collaboration model we advocate to be adopted to promote the pharmaceutical care in the community. A recent survey conducted by Synovate, a reputable and independent market research company, the highlights of which is as attached showed that over 80% of patients find community pharmacies more convenient.

This should come as no surprise especially in the case of the purchase of Self Financed Items (SFIs) or Special drugs when the amount of money involved is relatively large and the patients would prefer to make more frequent purchases involving a shorter duration of supply each time. This would also be the case in the events of public health crisis e.g. during the SARS period when patients are afraid of going back to the hospital compounds to obtain their drug supply.

Hence, we believe that it is necessary to have the Public Private Interface (PPI) model in full collaboration with the HA, centred around a Community Pharmacies Network. In this concept, a hospital based community pharmacy is set up at the hospital premise where the patients can get their initial supply of SFIs. This hospital based community

pharmacy is supported by a Community Pharmacies Network located outside the hospital and geographically nearer to the patients' homes.

It is our intention to operate the Community Pharmacies Network in a professional and ethical approach so that the patients can rest assured that they have convenient access to purchase their drugs at assured quality and at reasonable price. Community pharmacies will be accredited to provide this service, the dispensing can be audited by third parties, service pledge to the general public can be developed, drug counseling and concordance service will be provided to patients and report to the HA on the patient dispensing status.

We incline to prefer this Community Pharmacies Network concept as we believe this is the ultimate solution that will truly benefit the entire community. Meantime, we would maintain the ongoing dialogue with the HA but firmly oppose the repeated statements made by the HA representatives to the working group that the HA will operate the pharmacies themselves if no members from the pharmacy trade are interested in the tender process.

We sincerely hope that, by working together, we can find short, medium and long term solutions that will ensure that the HA patients have convenient access to purchase special drugs/SFIs at reasonable prices with assured drug quality.

Yours faithfully,

Billy Chung Wing-ming
President
The Practising Pharmacists Association of Hong Kong

Survey Summary

SFI Survey additional information

- Synovate Healthcare conducted a survey to capture public views on the SFI concept through computer aid telephone interview.
- Random sampling to ensure representation of the target universe.
- Fieldwork started on the 1st of June 2006 and completed by the 28th of June 2006.
- Total sample: 1010 members of the general public (Population aged from 15 – 64)

Age	Male	Female	Total
15-24 years	12.5%	12.5%	25%
25-34 years	15%	15%	30%
35-49 years	15%	15%	30%
50-64 years	7.5%	7.5%	15%
Total	50%	50%	100%

- Weighting - The data was weighted, to match the national Age : Sex ratios based on the most up-to-date government figures available.

Results

Source: Synovate Healthcare Survey on Self-Financed Items (SFI) Concept, June 2006 N=1010

Consumer preference of “Place of Purchase” for SFI

86% of respondents, who have sought for medical consultation from a clinic / hospital in past 12 months either their family member or themselves are diagnosed with chronic diseases, will go to a chain / independent pharmacy store for buying SFI.

Place of purchase for SFI	Respondents who have sought for medical consultation from a clinic / hospital in the past 12 months & either self / family have chronic disease/s	Self sick with chronic disease/s	Self healthy with chronic disease/s family member
Chain / independent pharmacy store	86%	85%	88%
Public hospital	79%	79%	79%
Private specialist clinic	56%	57%	54%
Private GP clinic	55%	53%	57%
Outside Hong Kong	24%	26%	21%

Comparison of Place of Purchase – Convenience and Reliable Drugs

Amongst different places where respondents can buy SFI , significantly higher number of respondents considered chain / independent pharmacy store (89%) is more convenient than public hospital (33%) to buy SFI; and over 60% of respondents considered either chain / independent pharmacy store or public hospital provides reliable drugs.

Place of purchase for SFI drugs	Convenience	Reliable Drugs
Chain / independent pharmacy store	89%	64%
Public hospital	33%	76%
Private specialist clinic	33%	46%
Private GP clinic	24%	53%
Outside Hong Kong	5%	8%