

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007

Dr. Hon Joseph Lee Kok Long  
Chairman  
Legco Health Service Panel  
Hong Kong

Dear Dr. Hon Joseph Lee Kok Long,

Subject: Special Meeting of Health Services Panel dated on Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007

On behalf of the three pharmacist professional organisations - the Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong (PSHK), the Practising Pharmacists Association of Hong Kong (PPAHK) and the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Hong Kong (SHP), with members representing over 1,000 practising pharmacists from various practice sectors in Hong Kong, we would like to lodge a formal protest on the process which a motion was passed at the Health Service Panel meeting dated Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007 per the mode of delivery of self-financed item drugs in public hospitals.

First of all, we were deeply surprised to see that a motion on such an important issue regarding the sale and supply of medications affecting not only the patients and the general public, but it also has an immense and far reaching impact on the overall health care policy on service delivery was proposed without advance notice. We were even more astounded when the motion supporting Hospital Authority to assume the private business role to sell and supply Self Financed Drug items was carried through by voting under such an abnormal condition with a minimum basic quorum present (three for and one against, one abstain out of 14 panel members).

It is necessary to point out that this is an important and serious matter affecting the long-term welfare of the Hong Kong people and the livelihood of many in the community now and in future. We are greatly disturbed and are disappointed with the way the Health Service Panel adopted at that meeting to have this matter hastily concluded without prior notice and hence without thorough discussion engaging the presence of a majority panel members.

We want to voice out that such a motion in supporting a public service to engage itself in commercial business by further sales and supply of the Self Financed Drug items before the anticipated release of the future Health Care Financing Consultation Paper in Q2 2007 would either damage the Primary Care functions of the health providers in the private sector or pave the way of privatisation of the public health services.



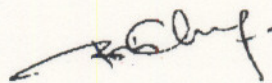
We urge that you look into the matter urgently and we would suggest that the Health Service Panel should conduct further meetings to revisit the matter and to identify appropriate options to deal with it. We look forward to hearing your prompt reply.

Yours faithfully,



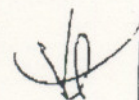
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Mr Benjamin Kwong  
President  
The Pharmaceutical Society  
of Hong Kong



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Mr Billy Chung  
President  
The Practising Pharmacists  
Association of Hong Kong



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Mr K W Ng  
President  
The Society of Hospital  
Pharmacists of Hong Kong



**PSHK**



**PPA**



**SHPHK**

cc Dr. York Chow – Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food Bureau  
Hon Mrs. Rita Fan Hsu Lai-tai GBS JP President Legislative Council  
Legco Health Service Panel Members:  
Dr. Hon Kwok Ka Ki Deputy Chairman  
Hon Fred Li Wah-ming, JP  
Hon Mrs Selina Chow Liang Shuk-ye, GBS, JP  
Hon Chan Yuen-han, JP  
Hon Bernard Chan, GBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Sophie Leung Lau Yau-fun, SBS, JP  
Dr. Hon Yeung Sum  
Hon Andrew Cheng Kar-foo  
Hon Li Fung-ying, BBS, JP  
Hon Audrey Eu Yuet-mee, SC, JP  
Hon Vincent Fang Kang, JP  
Hon Li Kwok-ying, MH, JP  
Dr. Hon Fernando Cheung Chiu-hung  
Mr. Anthony T Y Wu Chairman HA  
Hospital Authority Board Members  
Mr. Shane Solomon Chief Executive HA  
Dr. Allen W.L. Cheung Director Professional Services & Operations HA