

**Panel on Health Services**

**List of outstanding items for discussion**  
(position as at 9 November 2006)

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**1. Establishment of a community health and wellness centre at Yan Chai Hospital**

Item proposed by the Administration.

December 2006

**2. Subsidiary legislation to be made under the Human Organ Transplant Ordinance (Cap. 465)**

Item proposed by the Administration.

December 2006

**3. Grant to the Samaritan Fund**

Item proposed by the Administration.

December 2006

**4. Review of the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 141)**

The Administration gave an undertaking to the Subcommittee to Monitor the Implementation of the Recommendations of the SARS Expert Committee and the Hospital Authority Review Panel on the SARS Outbreak formed under the Panel to conduct a comprehensive revamp of the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance (Cap. 141), having regard to the operational experience in combating the last SARS epidemic and the changing patterns of international trade and people movement and to better meet present day circumstances.

January 2007

**5. Obstetric charges for non-eligible persons in public hospitals**

Item proposed by the Administration.

January 2007

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**6. Redevelopment of Caritas Medical Centre, Phase 2**

Item proposed by the Administration.

January 2007

**7. Development of Chinese medicine clinics in the public sector**

Item proposed by the Administration.

February - April 2007

**8. Expansion of the Blood Transfusion Service Headquarters**

Item proposed by the Administration.

February - April 2007

**9. Organ donation registry**

Item proposed by the Administration.

February - April 2007

**10. Poison control**

Item proposed by the Administration.

February - April 2007

**11. Regulation of "Health Maintenance Organisations"**

Item proposed by the Administration.

February - April 2007

The item was last discussed by the Panel at the meeting on 10 July 2006. The Administration was requested to report to members before end of 2006 on the progress made in taking forward the medical director concept for Health Maintenance Organisations.

**12. Communicable Disease Information System**

Item proposed by the Administration.

February - April 2007

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**13. Study on non-tobacco products that share the same trade mark as tobacco products**

Item proposed by the Administration.

May - July 2007

At the request of the Bills Committee on Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005, the Administration undertook to examine the viability of prohibiting the use of tobacco brand name and logo on non-tobacco products.

**14. Fixed penalty system for smoking offence**

Item proposed by the Administration.

May - July 2007

At the request of the Bills Committee on Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005, the Administration undertook to introduce a fixed penalty system for smoking offence within a period of 18 months after the enactment of the Bill in October 2006.

**15. Health care financing**

Item proposed by the Administration.

May - July 2007

**16. Regulation of medical devices**

Item proposed by the Administration.

May - July 2007

At the Panel meeting on 27 April 2006, members agreed to follow up on the implementation timetable for regulation of medical devices, including the use of Hydrophilic Polyacrylamide Gel (PAAG) for breast augmentation.

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**17. Regulation of health care personnel not currently subject to statutory registration**

Item proposed by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki.

The Administration provided a written reply to a LegCo question on the subject at the Council meeting on 18 October 2006.

**18. Separation of prescribing from dispensing of drugs**

Item proposed by Dr Hon YEUNG Sum.

The item was last discussed by the Panel at the meeting on 28 June 2005, during which the Administration advised that its position was that the matter would require thorough discussion by the stakeholders and the community at large, and the Administration would continue to listen to views and engage the parties concerned in the discussion before deciding the way forward.

The Administration provided a written reply to a LegCo question on the subject at the Council meeting on 25 October 2006.

**19. Provision of dental care services by the Department of Health**

Referred for follow-up by Duty Roster Members following their meeting with a deputation on 12 June 2006.

The Administration provided a written response dated 8 November 2006 at **Appendix I**.

**20. Waiving the fees and charges of needy Two Way Permit holders who are spouses of Hong Kong Identity Card holders for use of public health care services**

Referred for follow-up by the Panel on Health Services and the Panel on Welfare Services by Duty Roster Members following their meeting with a deputation on 19 July 2006.

The Administration provided a written response dated 8 November 2006 at **Appendix II** (Chinese version only).

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**21. New hospital on Lantau**

Item proposed by the Administration.

To be confirmed

**22. Health care complaints mechanism**

This item was previously discussed by the Panel in 2002. The Administration undertook to revert on this subject.

To be confirmed

**23. Review of Dentists (Registration) Ordinance**

Item proposed by the Administration.

To be confirmed

**24. Enhancing the provision of dental care for the elderly and extending school dental care services to post-primary students**

Item proposed by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki.

To be confirmed

**25. Medical Misadventure Fund**

Item proposed by Hon Albert HO.

To be confirmed

**26. Increase in professional indemnity insurance premiums**

Item proposed by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki.

To be confirmed

**27. Shortage of medical frontline staff in the Hospital Authority**

Referred for follow-up by the Panel at a meeting between Legislative Council Members and Wong Tai Sin District Council members on 6 January 2005.

The Administration will provide a written response in due course.

**28. Regulation of services provided by beauticians**

Item proposed by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**29. Medical practice by unregistered medical practitioners**

Item proposed by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki.

To be confirmed

**30. Shortage of nurses**

Item proposed by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

To be confirmed

**31. Medical services in New Territories West**

At the meetings between Legislative Council Members and Yuen Long District Council (YLDC) and Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC) members on 30 March 2006 and 11 May 2006 respectively, both YLDC and TMDC members expressed concern about the lack of medical services in the New Territories West. In particular, YLDC members requested the Administration to consider purchasing private services from private clinics to serve the needs of people living in Tin Shui Wai and expedite the construction of a medical centre in Area 109.

The Administration will provide a written response in due course.

**32. Expansion of private services by the Hospital Authority**

Item proposed by Hon Andrew CHENG.

To be confirmed

**33. Report on “Substitute decision-making and advance directives in relation to medical treatment”**

The above report was published by the Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong in August 2006.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing for  
discussion**

**34. Mental health services in public hospitals**

Item proposed by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki

To be confirmed

Council Business Division 2  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
9 November 2006



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

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**By Fax 2509 9055**

***Our ref.:*** HWF/H/LEG/56 (06)

***Tel. No.:*** 2973 8103

***Your ref.:*** CP/C 268/2006

***Fax No.:*** 2840 0467

8 November 2006

Miss Mary SO  
Clerk to Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong

Dear Miss So,

**Provision of Dental Care Services by Department of Health (DH)**

On 12 June 2006, Society for Community Organization (“SoCO”) met with LegCo Duty Roster Member and several other LegCo Members who were invited to the meeting. SoCO requested the Administration to provide street sleepers with dental care services and special grants. At the request of the Secretariat, the Administration provided in writing the background information and a response to SoCO’s suggestions on 25 May and 11 July 2006.

Having considered the situation presented by SoCO, members took the view that the LegCo Panel on Health Services should follow up the subjects of dental treatment for recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), and whether, apart from tooth extraction and prescription of pain killers, other follow-up services (such as filling and dentures) may be included in emergency dental services. Our reply is set out below:



Under the existing arrangements, CSSA recipients who are elderly, disabled or medically certified to be in ill health may seek dental services from one of the dental clinics designated by Social Welfare Department (SWD). After approaching the designated clinic for an estimate of cost, the CSSA recipient may apply for a special grant from SWD to cover the cost of the dental treatment.

Since June 1999, the Government has tightened the special grants and supplements payable to able-bodied CSSA recipients below the age of 60. That was mainly prompted by public concern over rising CSSA expenditures and rapid growth in CSSA caseload concerning able-bodied adults, and the considerably higher level of CSSA payments for larger families as compared with the market wages of low-end jobs. After extensive consultation and with the approval of the Legislative Council, the Administration has implemented a series of measures, including measures to assist and encourage employable CSSA recipients to re-enter the labour market, and cut down the types of special grants payable to them to remove their disincentive to work.

For able-bodied CSSA recipients below the age of 60 who are in genuine financial hardship and unable to afford the dental expenses, the Director of Social Welfare may consider, on the merits of individual cases, a discretionary payment of a special grant to cover the expenses. In fact, some non-government organizations (NGOs) such as Christian Concern for the Homeless Association, also provide dental treatment services to the homeless. With the sponsorship of the S.K.Yee Medical Foundation, it has set up a team of dentists and dental nurses who volunteer to provide teeth cleaning, filling and extraction services at a registration fee of \$10 each time. As for fixing of dentures, the Association only charges the cost recovery fees.

As regards treatment of dental diseases, in order to optimise the use of limited government resources, DH only provides certain dental services to people who require emergency treatment and those with special oral health care needs. Such services do not include dental fillings and fixing of dentures. DH is committed to improve the oral health of the population and prevent dental diseases by promoting oral hygiene and oral health awareness in the community, helping them develop good oral hygiene habits and facilitating the proper use of oral care services. General dental services of the public are provided by the private sector, and many private organisations and NGOs are also rendering dental services at reasonable prices. DH will continue to encourage private dentists and NGOs to provide affordable dental services to the public. DH will keep up its efforts on oral health

education, and provide advice and channels for the patients to use the services in the private sector.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pamela Lam', written in a cursive style.

(Miss Pamela LAM)  
for Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food

本函檔號：HWF/H/33/102 Pt 3 04  
來函檔號：CP/C 351/2006

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香港中區  
昃臣道8號  
立法會大樓  
立法會秘書處秘書長  
(經辦人:陳李湘雯女士)

陳女士：

**有關準來港婦女要求醫療豁免申請事宜**

貴秘書處10月10日的來函收悉。

本局在7月12日向貴秘書處發出的函件中，曾指出醫院管理局(醫管局)在一般的情況下，並不會向非符合資格人士(包括持雙程證的港人內地妻子)提供醫療費用減免。不過，醫管局現行的費用減免指引中，亦有訂明若非符合資格人士能證明他/她與香港居民有緊密關係(例如其配偶為香港居民)，而其處境又涉及特殊社會因素(例如有真正需要留港照顧其年幼子女、長期病患或嚴重殘疾的配偶/父母)，則社工可依據醫療費用減免的一般審核準則，按個別情況減免其醫療費用。

就來函中所提及的三宗個案，經社會福利署(社署)綜合家庭服務中心社工跟進了解後，證實三位內地婦女均來自綜援受助家庭，其中兩位的配偶是香港居民，而另一位則是單親家長。有關社工已審核該三位女士的個案，認為她們均符合上述的減免條件，並已向其中兩位發出醫療費用減免證明書；另一位女士則正身在內地處理與其出入境文件有關的事宜，待她回港後，社署便會立即向她發出醫療費用減免證明書。

衛生福利及食物局局長

(王瑤琪 代行)

二零零六年十一月八日

副本送：

社會福利署 (經辦人:總社會工作主任(康復及醫務社會服務)2)  
醫院管理局 (經辦人:統籌經理(專職醫療))