

Panel on Health Services

List of follow-up actions

(Position as at 15 February 2008)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
<p>1. Further discussion on the obstetric service charge for non-eligible persons whose spouses are Hong Kong residents</p>	<p>30 April 2007</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide a written response to the motion passed by the Panel at the meeting on 16 April 2007 by early June 2007 at the latest. The wording of the motion reads as follows -</p> <p>"本委員會對於衛生福利及食物局及醫院管理局於今年 2 月初推行公立醫院內地孕婦的新收費政策(39,000 元/48,000 元)未有考慮對港人家庭(即父親為香港居民而母親為準來港婦女之家庭)的影響表示遺憾，並要求當局豁免港人家庭按新收費政策繳費。"</p>	<p>The effectiveness of the new obstetric service arrangements (including the obstetric service package charge) and complementary immigration measures are being closely monitored.</p> <p>A refund mechanism on the new obstetric package charge was introduced on 29 October 2007 by the Hospital Authority (HA). The Administration's response on the refund mechanism was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 533/07-08(01) on 6 December 2007.</p>

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		<p>(Translation)</p> <p>"That this Panel expresses regret that the new obstetric package charge (\$39,000/\$48,000) implemented by the Health, Welfare and Food Bureau and the Hospital Authority in early February this year for Mainland women giving birth in public hospitals has failed to take into account its impact on Hong Kong families (i.e. those with the father being a Hong Kong resident and the mother a Two-way Permit holder), and urges the Government to exempt these families from the new fee charging policy."</p> <p>The Administration was also requested to include in its written response to the Panel the suggestion of refunding fees paid at the time of booking for public obstetric services if the delivery did not take place eventually due to valid reasons such as a miscarriage.</p>	
2. Increase in the approved commitment for the Health and Health Services Research Fund	1 June 2007	The Administration was requested to provide information on the amount of funding granted to each approved project and whether there was any application which was worthy of support but could not be supported due to lack of fund.	The Administration's response was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1063/07-08(01) on 13 February 2008.

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3. Implications of the 2006 Starting Salaries Survey findings on the subvented organisations in the healthcare and welfare sectors	25 June 2007 (joint meeting with the Panel on Welfare Services)	HA was requested to carefully consider the views expressed by deputations and members at the meeting in its review of the total remuneration packages of its staff, and revert to the Panel later.	HA has implemented the new career structure for doctors, the new starting salary structures for nursing, allied health and other non-clinical staff groups in October 2007.
4. Shortage of medical staff in the Hospital Authority	9 July 2007	<p>The Administration was requested to provide information on -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) its projected manpower demand for different healthcare professionals in Hong Kong in the coming years and the number of places in medical and nursing programmes funded by the Government that would be provided to meet such manpower demand; (b) the methodology used by HA in deploying nurses; (c) the methodology for estimating long-term manpower demand of HA; (d) ways to improve the management culture of HA to avoid situations, such as only informing contract doctors close to the expiry of their contract whether their contract would be renewed and unequal pay for the same work; and 	The Administration will provide a written response.

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		<p>(e) future supply of medical and nursing graduates to avoid any shortfall or oversupply of doctors and nurses.</p> <p>HA was requested to provide a report on the progress made in addressing pay disparity amongst its healthcare staff.</p>	
<p>5. Progress report on registration of Chinese medicine practitioners (CMPs)</p>	<p>12 November 2007</p>	<p>The Administration was requested -</p> <p>(a) to revert to the Panel on the outcome of the consideration by the Continuing Education Fund (CEF) on the proposal of including training courses on the CMP Licensing Examination in the list of reimbursable courses for CEF; and</p> <p>(b) to relay to the Practitioners' Board for consideration the following views expressed by members -</p> <p>(i) to better protect the public, disciplinary mechanism for CMPs should be made more open and transparent, in particular all disciplinary actions taken against CMPs should be made known to the public through gazettal and other means; and</p>	<p>The Administration's response to (b) and (c) was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1081/07-08(01) on 14 February 2008. The Administration will revert to the Panel on (a) once the outcome of the discussions is available.</p>

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		<p>(ii) exemption should be given to graduates of the two part-time degree courses in Chinese medicine offered by the Xiamen University in collaboration with the Open University of Hong Kong and by the Hong Kong College of Technology in collaboration with the Jinan University to sit the CMP Licensing Examination, for the reasons set out in paragraph 58 of the minutes of the meeting.</p>	
6. Mental health policy	22 November 2007	<p>The Administration was requested to provide written responses to the following in three months' time -</p> <p>(a) views expressed by deputations as set out in a summary table to be prepared by LegCo Secretariat; and</p> <p>(b) a motion passed by the Panel which reads as follows -</p> <p>"本委員會對政府長期缺乏精神健康政策，忽視精神病患者及其家屬的需要，表示極之失望及遺憾，並強烈要求政府：</p> <p>(一) 盡快全面檢討及訂定本港的精神健康政策；</p>	The Administration will provide a written response.

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		<p>(二) 增加精神科服務的資源，以改善現時精神科在預防、診斷、治療、藥物、住院及復康等各方面的服務；及</p> <p>(三) 加強精神科社區服務，提升精神健康社區衛生服務團隊的職能。”</p> <p>(Translation)</p> <p>"That this Panel expresses deep disappointment and regret at the Government's lack of any mental health policy over a long time and its neglecting the needs of mentally ill patients and their family members, and strongly urges the Government to:</p> <p>(a) expeditiously conduct a comprehensive review and formulate a mental health policy for Hong Kong;</p> <p>(b) allocate more resources to improve the existing psychiatric services in such areas as prevention, diagnosis, treatment, medication, hospitalization and rehabilitation; and</p>	

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		<p>(c) strengthen community psychiatric services and enhance the functions of community psychiatric health care teams."</p> <p>Upon receipt of the Administration's response, another meeting would be held to follow up the matter.</p>	

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
15 February 2008