

Panel on Health Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 10 October 2007)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. Report of the Internal Taskforce's Review of Hospital Authority's Private Patient Revenue Management System

Nov 2007

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki proposed to discuss the captioned report released by the Hospital Authority (HA) in late July 2007.

During the Panel's discussion on the issue of "Private patient services at public hospitals and fee-sharing arrangements" on 2 April 2007, HA agreed to report to the Panel the results of its review of the internal controls of the private patient billing system when the results became available in about three months' time.

2. Matters relating to the regulation of Chinese medicine practitioners and Chinese medicines traders

Nov 2007

Subsequent to the meeting on 13 November 2006, the Panel agreed that the "registration of Chinese Medicine practitioners" be made a standing agenda item for discussion by the Panel every six months. The Administration suggests that the proposed commencement of certain provisions of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance, to fully effect the licensing system for Chinese medicines traders and import and export control on certain Chinese medicines, be discussed as well at the meeting in November.

3. Mode of supply of self-financed item (SFI) drugs to patients of public hospitals

Dec 2007

At the meeting on 12 February 2007, the Administration was requested to report to the Panel when the HA Board had come to a view on the mode of supply of SFI drugs before implementation.

Proposed timing for discussion
Q1 2008

4. Regulation of medical devices

Item proposed by the Administration.

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.

5. Eligibility for subsidised public benefits of non-eligible persons (NEPs) whose spouses are Hong Kong residents and those who are not

Q1/Q2 2008

During the discussion on the issue of "Obstetric service charge for NEPs whose spouses are Hong Kong residents" on 30 April 2007, members agreed that a joint meeting should be held with other relevant Panels to discuss with the Chief Secretary for Administration on the impact of eligibility for public benefits by NEPs whose spouses were Hong Kong residents on population policy and family policy.

6. Progress report on promoting healthy eating among school children

Q2 2008

The item was last discussed by the Panel at the meeting on 8 January 2007. The Administration was requested to report to the Panel after it had completed an evaluation study of the campaign to promote healthy eating habit among school children at the end of the 2006-2007 school year and to take into account members' views and suggestions in the comprehensive review of the campaign.

7. Regulation of "Health Maintenance Organisations" (HMOs)

To be confirmed

The issue was last discussed at the meeting on 11 June 2007. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel the timeframe for establishing a statutory licensing regime to regulate HMOs, in view of the lack of adequacy of the Medical Director concept to safeguard patients' welfare.

Proposed timing for discussion

8. Review of the assessment criteria for introducing new drugs into the Hospital Authority Drug Formulary and for assistance under the Samaritan Fund

To be confirmed

Item proposed by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG.

9. Operation of public mortuaries

To be confirmed

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki has proposed to discuss the captioned matter arising from the failure of a mortuary staff at Victoria Public Mortuary to observe the stipulated procedures for claiming of deceased body before sending the body for burial.

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

To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration.

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.

11. Health care financing

To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration.

12. Communicable Disease Information System

To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration

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

To be confirmed

Item proposed by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki.

Proposed timing for discussion

To be confirmed

14. 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.

15. Health care complaints mechanism

To be confirmed

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

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

To be confirmed

Item proposed by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki.

17. Medical Misadventure Fund

To be confirmed

Item proposed by Hon Albert HO.

18. Increase in professional indemnity insurance premiums

To be confirmed

Item proposed by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki.

19. Regulation of services provided by beauticians

To be confirmed

Item proposed by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki.

20. Medical practice by unregistered medical practitioners

To be confirmed

Item proposed by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki.

Proposed timing for discussion

- 21. Expansion of private services by the Hospital Authority** To be confirmed

Item proposed by Hon Andrew CHENG.

- 22. Report on “Substitute decision-making and advance directives in relation to medical treatment”** To be confirmed

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

- 23. Mental health services in public hospitals** To be confirmed

Item proposed by Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki.

- 24. Review of fee waiver mechanism for public hospital fees and charges** To be confirmed

Referred for follow-up by Duty Roster Members following their meeting with a deputation on 22 November 2006.

- 25. Appointment of members to the Hospital Authority Board** To be confirmed

Item proposed by Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG.