

Panel on Health Services**List of follow-up actions**

(Position as at 8 November 2007)

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
1. Further discussion on the obstetric service charge for non-eligible persons whose spouses are Hong Kong residents	30 April 2007	<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 will provide a written response on the refund mechanism shortly.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<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>	

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
2. Progress report on registration of Chinese medicine practitioners (CMP)	14 May 2007	<p>The Administration was requested -</p> <p>(a) to provide information on why the following two part-time undergraduate degree courses in Chinese medicine failed to fulfil the requirements of recognised courses stipulated by the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board (Practitioners Board) -</p> <p>(i) part-time undergraduate course in Chinese Medicine offered by the University of Xiamen and the Li Ka Shing Institute of Professional and Continuing Education, the Open University of Hong Kong; and</p> <p>(ii) part-time degree course in Chinese Medicine offered by Jinan University and the Hong Kong College of Technology.</p> <p>(b) to consider including in the training course on examination skills organised by the Department of Health the frequent mistakes made by candidates;</p>	<p>The subject will be discussed by the Panel on Health Services in the meeting to be held on 12 November 2007.</p>

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p>(c) to convey to the relevant department for consideration the suggestion of including fee-charging courses targetted at helping people to prepare for the CMP Licensing Examination as reimbursable courses under the Continuing Education Fund;</p> <p>(d) to relay to the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board the suggestion of the Hong Kong Medicine Workers General Union of making available answers to past examination questions of the CMP Licensing Examination to the public and members' view that such practice was not unprecedented, as detailed in paragraph 31 of the minutes of the meeting; and</p> <p>(e) to expeditiously convene a meeting between the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong and institutes whose Chinese medicine degree courses were not recognised by the Practitioners Board so as to resolve the disputes over the eligibility for undertaking the CMP Licensing Examination, with Panel members invited to attend the meeting.</p>	

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
3. Enforcement of the statutory smoking prohibition and proposed introduction of a fixed penalty system for smoking offence	1 June 2007	The Administration was requested to provide supplementary information on the procedures and time taken by the Tobacco Control Office in processing complaints about smoking offence.	The Administration's response was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)275/07-08(01) on 6 November 2007.
4. 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 will provide a written response shortly.
5. Mortuaries in public hospitals	11 June 2007	HA was requested to look into the operating hours of mortuaries in public non-acute and rehabilitation hospitals and revert to the Panel later.	The Administration will provide a written response shortly.
6. 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.	The HA announced the new career structure for doctors in public hospitals on 28 August 2007, and announced the proposal on new starting salary structures for the nursing, allied health and other non-clinical staff groups on 3 September 2007. The Administration will provide a written response shortly.

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
7. 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(e) future supply of medical and nursing graduates to avoid any shortfall or oversupply of doctors and nurses. <p>HA was requested to provide a report on the progress made in addressing pay disparity amongst its healthcare staff.</p>	The Administration will provide a written response shortly.

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
8. Medical services in Tung Chung	17 July 2007	<p>The Administration was requested to provide a written response to the motion passed by the Panel at the meeting in three months' time. The wording of the motion reads as follows -</p> <p>"鑒於東涌地位偏遠，而人口日漸增長，加上附近機場、愉景灣及主要旅遊設施對醫療服務的需求，本委員會認為政府應從速興建北大嶼山醫院，並履行承諾於2011年開始分期投入服務，於2012年全面展開服務。在醫院落成前，應推行下列措施：</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(一) 提供廿四小時門診服務；(二) 增加門診籌額，並改善預約服務，撥出部分名額讓病人親身輪候，以方便長者；(三) 在公務員優先的原則下，開放牙科服務給市民使用；(四) 提供七天門診服務；及(五) 盡快提供急症過渡服務。"	The Administration will provide a written response shortly.

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p>(Translation)</p> <p>"That, given the remote location of Tung Chung and its growing population, coupled with the demand for medical services arising from the airport, Discovery Bay and major tourist facilities nearby, this Panel considers that the Government should expeditiously construct the North Lantau Hospital ("NLH") and honour its pledge for NLH to commence operation by phases from 2011 and be in full operation in 2012. Before the commissioning of NLH, the following measures should be introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) providing round-the-clock outpatient service;(b) increasing the consultation slots for outpatient service and improving the booking service by allocating some consultation slots to patients who queue in person for the convenience of the elderly;	

Subject	Date of meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
		<p>(c) opening up the dental service for public, subject to the principle of according priority to civil servants;</p> <p>(d) providing seven-days-a-week outpatient service; and</p> <p>(e) providing transitional accident and emergency service expeditiously."</p>	