

**LegCo Panel on Security**  
**Youth Drug Abuse**

At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Security on 10 April 2008, the Administration was requested to refer to the Research Advisory Group (RAG) for consideration the need to conduct a further review on acupuncture therapy, particularly its effectiveness in the treatment of psychotropic drug abuse.

At its meeting in May 2008, RAG Members recalled that a meta-analysis of acupuncture therapy in the treatment of heroin dependence had been completed in 2006. As regards overseas experience, while acupuncture had been used in the treatment of cocaine, alcohol and smoking addiction, the literature of using acupuncture therapy in the treatment of psychotropic drug abuse was scarce. The use of acupuncture therapy for treating psychotropic drug abuse in Hong Kong had also not been heard of.

RAG Members also noted that a study on “Short-Term and Long-Term Effects of Chinese Herbal Medicine in Drug Detoxification - a Series of Meta-Analysis”<sup>1</sup> was currently underway. Pending completion of the study, the possible need for a further study on acupuncture therapy, particularly its effectiveness in the treatment of psychotropic drug abuse, might be reviewed as appropriate in future.

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<sup>1</sup> The study aims at conducting a meta-analysis to review and consolidate results of the clinical trials conducted in respect of Chinese herbal therapy on drug detoxification and rehabilitation, thereby evaluating the short-term and long-term efficacy and safety of such therapy.