



HONG KONG

DOCTORS UNION

香港西醫工會

Room 901, Hang Shing Bldg., 363-373 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

Email: hkdu@hkdu.org Home page: <http://www.hkdu.org>

Tel. No.: 2388 2728

Fax: 2385 5275

Our ref: HKDU/053/2009

By fax and mail27th March 2009

Mr. Joseph Lee Kok Long
Chairman
The LegCo's Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Mr. Lee,

Counter proposal for Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine's inclusion
in the Childhood Immunization Programme

We welcome the decision to incorporate the above vaccination into the Government Vaccination Programme for infants and toddlers in Hong Kong.

The success of the Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (IVSS) programme for influenza vaccination undertaken by family doctors with Government subsidies gives us encouragement that the same success can apply to Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccination employing the service of family doctors. This can easily be done without the Government paying extra funds. She only needs to pay the cost of the vaccines just the same as parents going to Maternal and Child Health Centres (MCHC). The vaccination cost payable by parents to doctors would be up to the doctors, and parents would have a free choice of doctors as a consequence.

The obvious advantages are: firstly, flooding in the MCHC with children for Pneumococcal injection would be avoided. Secondly, the parents do not need to take time off work but can go at convenient hours, including evenings after office hours, to visit family doctors for the programme. This flexibility has been welcomed by parents for the IVSS and should be proven to be more cost effective and economical to the community. Thirdly, the advantage of visiting family doctors for vaccination would reinforce the Family Doctor concept, which is currently advocated by the Government for the future Health Care Reform in Hong Kong for the better.

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We are surprised that the government prefers using the Auxiliary Medical Service on weekends. The cost definitely will be significant. Such precious public resources would be better saved and used to supervise and prevent drugs related incidents and public scandals that have recently surfaced repeatedly in hospitals and pharmaceutical firms. Allowing the family doctor to take part not only becomes a fine example of Public and Private cooperation (known as Public Private Interface publicized by the Hospital Authority). Parents' time and cost of leave from work will be saved and thus will help the already difficult economy.

If we could be of further assistance, we could be reached at phone no. 2388 2728 or email at hkdu@hkdu.org. Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ho Ock Ling
Hon. Secretary
Hong Kong Doctors Union

cc: Prof. Low Chung Kai, Louis, President - Hong Kong College of Paediatricians