

Panel on Health Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 11 February 2011)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Commencement of provisions related to proprietary Chinese medicines in the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549)

February 2011

The Administration consulted the Panel on 12 July 2010 of its plan to commence in phases from December 2010 the provisions in the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549) and the Chinese Medicines Regulation (Cap. 549F) related to the mandatory registration of proprietary Chinese medicines ("pCm") and the requirements of label and package inserts.

At the meeting, members agreed that where necessary, the Panel could decide in the new legislative session whether a special meeting should be convened to re-visit the matter and receive views from the trade.

The Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Commencement) Notice 2010, the Chinese Medicine (Fees) Regulation (Commencement) Notice 2010 and the Chinese Medicines Regulation (Commencement) Notice 2010 were gazetted on 8 October 2010 and tabled before the Council on 13 October 2010. By these Commencement Notices, the Secretary for Food and Health appoints 3 December 2010 and 1 December 2011 as the day on which the offences relating to the sale, import and possession of pCm through registration and the requirements of label and package inserts will come into effect respectively. The 28-day negative vetting period has expired on 10 November 2010 and no resolution has been passed by the Legislative Council to amend the Commencement Notice or to extend the vetting period.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

On the instruction of Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun and Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung who met with representatives of 中國新醫學醫療中心有限公司 and 國際中醫中藥總會有限公司 on 26 November 2010 to receive views concerning the commencement of the relevant provisions in Cap. 549 and Cap. 549F, the Complaints Division referred the concerns raised by the organizations to the Panel for follow-up.

At the meeting on 13 December 2010, members agreed to receive public views on the subject. A special meeting was held on 17 January 2011 for the purpose. The Panel will continue to receive views from deputations and discuss the subject at the special meeting on 15 February 2011.

2. Implementation of the Elderly Healthcare Voucher Pilot Scheme

March 2011

The Panel discussed with the Administration on the Pilot Scheme on 12 October and 12 November 2007, and 14 April 2008. At the meeting on 14 April 2008, the Panel passed a motion requesting the Administration to provide health care vouchers to elders aged 65 or above, increase the value of each health care voucher to at least \$100, expedite the launching of the health care voucher pilot scheme within 2008, and provide each senior citizen with at least 10 health care vouchers a year.

The Scheme was launched on 1 January 2009 for three years up to the end of 2011.

At the special meeting of the Panel on 16 October 2009, the Administration advised that an interim review would be conducted after the Scheme had been implemented for a year. A comprehensive review would also be carried out upon the completion of the three-year pilot period. The reviews would cover the effectiveness and scope of the Scheme, amount of subsidy, etc.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

At the meeting on 8 March 2010, Hon CHAN Hak-kan proposed discussion of the interim review on the implementation of the Scheme in view of the media reports about improper voucher reimbursement claims by some healthcare service providers enrolled in the Scheme.

At the special meeting of the Panel on 15 October 2010, the Administration advised that it was now conducting an interim review on the Scheme, and anticipated that it would be completed by the end of 2010. Subject to the outcome of the interim review, the Administration would consider extending and enhancing the Scheme, including how to better appraise the effectiveness of the Scheme and promote wider use of preventive care among the elderly.

3. Mental health service plan for adults for 2010-2015 and the findings and recommendations of the Report of the Review Committee on Management and Follow-up of Mental Patients with Reference to the Mental Patient Incident in Kwai Shing East Estate

March 2011

Item proposed by Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou on 6 September 2010.

The Panel discussed with the Administration on the new mental health service programmes launched by HA at the meeting on 11 May 2010. Members were advised, amongst others, that to enhance the mental health services in response to the needs of the community in a systematic manner, HA was developing a mental health service plan for adults for 2010-2015, setting out the goals, objectives and action priorities for the mental health services for adults in the next five years.

At the meeting, the Panel passed a motion urging the Administration to set up an independent committee to investigate the causes of the tragedy occurred on 8 May in Kwai Shing East Estate involving a chopping attack by a man which left two dead and three

seriously injured, so as to find out the root of the problem with a view to improving the treatment and rehabilitation services for mental illness and preventing the recurrence of similar incidents. In the light of the incident and the concerns of members and the community, HA set up a Review Committee on Management and Follow-up of Mental Patients with Reference to the Mental Patient Incident in Kwai Shing East Estate in May 2010. The Review Committee has submitted its report to the Chief Executive of HA and the Secretary for Food and Health on 3 August 2010.

At the meeting on 15 October 2010, members agreed that the subject should be discussed by the Panel at a future meeting.

4. Electronic health record sharing

2nd quarter, 2011

Item proposed by the Administration in the 2009-2010 legislative session.

At the meeting on 9 March 2009, the Administration briefed the Panel on the proposal to develop a territory-wide patient-oriented electronic health record ("eHR") sharing system. At the special meeting of the Panel on 19 June 2009, the Panel received the views of deputations on the proposal.

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the funding proposals for the directorate staffing support for the Electronic Health Record Office ("eHR Office") and the implementation of the first stage of the territory-wide eHR Programme on 10 July 2009. On the legal framework and the implementation plan for the eHR sharing system, the Administration advised that it would commence the formulation of the necessary long-term legal framework after obtaining the funding approval, and would provide an interim report to the Panel on Health Services in due course.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

The eHR Office was set up in July 2009 to take forward the Programme. At the special meeting of the Panel on 16 October 2009, the Administration advised that it would consult the relevant professions, stakeholders and the public in 2010 on issues such as voluntary participation, authorisation and consent for record access and the long-term legal framework required for the protection of privacy and security of personal health data, and prepare for the drafting of the necessary legislation.

5. Implementation of the Shared Care Programme

2nd quarter, 2011

The Panel was briefed on the three-year pilot Programme at the meeting on 8 March 2010. The Administration agreed to revert to the Panel on the progress of the Programme one year after implementation.

6. Improvement of doctors' working hour in public hospitals

2nd quarter, 2011

The Panel discussed with the Administration on the Final Report on Doctor Work Reform on 12 April 2010. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the progress of improving doctors' working hour in six to 12 months' time.

7. Shortage of nurses

(see Note)

At the meeting on 8 March 2010, Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested that the subject should be discussed by the Panel within the current legislative session.

Note: The Administration has advised that an information paper on the subject will be provided to the Panel in due course.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

8. Redeployment of directorate posts in the Department of Health

To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration in the 2008-2009 legislative session.

The Administration has advised that the discussion of the item was deferred due to the unavailability of time slot. Item was then planned to be incorporated in a composite proposal on creation of directorate posts for discussion on 12 April 2010. In the light of a letter dated 26 March 2010 from the Government Doctors' Association ("GDA") to the Director of Health, copied to Panel members, the item was withdrawn, pending further consultation with GDA. The Administration plans to re-submit the item for discussion in the Establishment Subcommittee and Finance Committee meetings to be held on 4 May 2011 and 27 May 2011 respectively.

9. Issues related to health services under the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 12 July 2010, members agreed to defer the discussion of the item to a future meeting in view of the time constraint.

10. Regulation of "Health Maintenance Organisations"

To be confirmed

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

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

11. Referral from Duty Roster Member regarding the provision of medical services for children in poverty

To be confirmed

On 16 April 2010, Duty Roster Members of the Legislative Council met with representatives of the Hong Kong Society for Community Organization to receive views on the provision of medical services for children in poverty. Duty Roster Members agreed that the issue be referred to the Panel for follow-up.

12. Proposed regulatory framework of medical devices

To be confirmed

The Panel was briefed on the proposed regulatory framework for medical devices at the meeting on 8 November 2010. The Administration advised that in response to the recommendation of the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee, it would conduct a business impact assessment at the detailed design stage. The Administration planned to report to the Panel on the outcome of the business impact assessment together with the details of the legislative proposal in 2011.

At the meeting, Dr Hon Joseph LEE and Hon Vincent FANG proposed that the trade and industry should be invited to give views on the subject.

13. Second Stage Public Consultation on Healthcare Reform - Health Protection Scheme

To be confirmed

The Panel was briefed on 6 October 2010 on the proposed Health Protection Scheme set out in the Healthcare Reform Second Stage Consultation Document entitled "My Health My Choice" issued by the Administration on the same day for public consultation till 7 January 2011.

The Panel received public views on the proposed Health Protection Scheme on 11 December 2010 and

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

further discussed the subject with the Administration on 13 December 2010. On 13 December 2010, the Administration advised that it planned to revert to the Panel on the outcome of the consultation within the 2010-2011 legislative session.

14. Pilot project on outreach primary dental care services for elderly in residential care homes and day care centres

To be confirmed

The Panel was briefed on the pilot project at the meeting on 10 January 2011. The Administration advised that it planned to launch the pilot project for a period of three years, tentatively from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014.

The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel one year after the launch of the pilot project on a review of its effectiveness.

Note : The Administration has advised that it would revert to the Panel after completion of the interim reviews on the pilot project.