



December 9, 2010

To Legislative Council,

Health Protection Scheme: Voluntary and Government-regulated

The executive members of Hong Kong Radiographers' Association agree that public subsidized healthcare is on the verge of failure in sustaining long term aging population but the voluntary health insurance scheme cannot be successful. We have the following comments about the "Health Protection Scheme: Voluntary and Government-regulated".

This new model of Health Care Reform is quite unexpected and only hit on the middle class. We presume that will benefit the private health service providers and the insurance companies. Thus it will just encourage more public health care professionals to go to private and there will be two definite tiers of healthcare service. We can see that it will revert back to the kind of public health service operated in the 70s, when doctors having acquired enough experience will go out to serve the private market. A blooming private sector will introduce constructive competition among them and ultimately improvement in their healthcare standards but it cannot narrow the gap between the quality of service in the public and private.

We do agree that more stringent control on charging mechanism of the private health care providers albeit a difficult issue such as the cost of drugs, medical consumables and the rent. By the experience in overseas, insurance companies are not ideal agencies to control the health care cost. Instead, we expect a kind of insurance scheme for all HK citizens operated by the government rather than insurance companies.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

Edward Chan

Chairman, Hong Kong Radiographers' Association