

Panel on Health Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 10 February 2012)

**Proposed timing
for Discussion**

1. Health Protection Scheme

(see note)

The Panel was briefed on 6 October 2010 on the proposed Health Protection Scheme ("HPS") 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 HPS on 11 December 2010 and 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.

At the meeting on 11 July 2011, the Administration briefed the Panel on the Healthcare Reform Second Stage Public Consultation Report. The Panel decided to appoint a subcommittee to follow up the subject of the proposed HPS. Noting that more than eight subcommittees on policy issues were already in operation and the subcommittee would be put on the waiting list, members agreed that the Panel should convene special meetings to further discuss the subject pending the activation of the subcommittee. Members also agreed to receive public views on the subject.

A special meeting was held on 8 August 2011 for the purpose. At the meeting, the Panel agreed to the proposed terms of reference, work plan and time frame of the subcommittee. The House Committee agreed at the meeting on 21 October 2011 that the subcommittee could be activated only after any one of the subcommittees on policy issues in operation had completed its work.

**Proposed timing
for Discussion**

Members agreed at the meeting on 13 October 2011 that pending the approval of the House Committee for the activation of the Subcommittee, the Panel should hold special meetings to discuss the subject. A special meeting was held on 24 November 2011 for the purpose. A further discussion with the Administration will be held on 13 February 2012.

Note: As the Subcommittee on Registration of Proprietary Chinese Medicines appointed under the Panel had completed its work and would submit a report to the Panel on 13 February 2012, the Subcommittee on Health Protection Scheme would be able to commence work afterwards.

2. Expansion of United Christian Hospital

Mar 2012

At the special meeting on 20 October 2011, the Administration advised the Panel that subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee of Legislative Council ("LegCo"), it planned to commence the preparatory works for the expansion of the United Christian Hospital in the 3rd quarter of 2012.

The current plan of the expansion project would involve the demolition of three existing hospital building blocks and an annex at the United Christian Hospital for construction of a new block, and an extension to one of the existing hospital blocks. The areas vacated at other existing hospital blocks would be converted and renovated for the improvement, expansion and rationalization of the existing departments/services. Extended care wards and oncology wards will also be accommodated at the existing clinical blocks. The preparatory works would include site investigations, building survey, and preparation of outline sketch design, detailed design, tender documentation and tender assessment for the main works.

**Proposed timing
for Discussion**

3. Establishment of a multi-partite Medical Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics

Mar 2012

The Chief Executive announced in his 2007-2008 Policy Address that the Government would study the establishment of a multi-partite Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics. A steering committee was set up under the Food and Health Bureau in 2008 to prepare for the establishment of the Centre.

At the special meeting of the Panel on 20 October 2011, the Administration advised that it planned to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee of LegCo in 2012 for the establishment of the Centre at Kai Tak. The Centre would enhance the quality of clinical services, research and training in the discipline of paediatrics through an efficient concentration of expertise, advanced technology and cases of complex illness. It would bring together paediatric professionals in the public, private and academic sectors from both within and outside Hong Kong, pool resources from both the public and private sectors, and partner with major international paediatrics centres for professional collaboration, research and training.

4. Private hospital development

1st/2nd quarter, 2012

The development of private healthcare services is one of the major Government policies announced by the Chief Executive in his 2009-2010 Policy Address and a key initiative under the healthcare reform. Four sites at Wong Chuk Hang, Tseung Kwan O, Tai Po and Lantau have been reserved for development of private hospitals.

The Panel was briefed on 14 December 2009 on the Expression of Interest exercise for private hospital development launched by the Administration on the same day to solicit market interest in the development of private hospitals at the four reserved sites till 31 March 2010.

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for Discussion**

At the meeting on 13 October 2011, members requested the Administration to brief the Panel on its plan for the development of the medical services industry, including the disposal of the four pieces of land reserved for private hospital development, as highlighted in the 2011-2012 Policy Address.

At the special meeting of the Panel on 20 October 2011, the Administration advised that it was formulating the land disposal arrangements for the four reserved hospital sites. It planned to first dispose of the two sites at Wong Chuk Hang and Tai Po in the first quarter of 2012. The other two sites would be disposed of later in phases.

5. Improvement of doctors' working hour in public hospitals

1st/2nd quarter, 2012

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.

6. Proposed regulatory framework of medical devices

1st/2nd quarter, 2012

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.

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for Discussion**

7. Referral from Duty Roster Member regarding the financial assistance provided by the Samaritan Fund for tetraplegic patients

2nd quarter, 2012

On 24 June 2011, Duty Roster Members of LegCo met with representatives of the Hong Kong Neuro-Muscular Disease Association to receive views on the financial assistance provided by the Samaritan Fund for tetraplegic patients. Duty Roster Members agreed that the issue be referred to the Panel and the Panel on Welfare Services for follow-up.

At the meeting on 13 June 2011, members agreed that a joint meeting with the Panel on Welfare Services should be held in the next legislative session to discuss the assistance for tetraplegic patients.

8. Electronic health record sharing

2nd/3rd quarter, 2012

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.

Finance Committee of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") 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.

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

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advised that it would consult the relevant professions, stakeholders and the public in 2010 on issues such as voluntary participation, authorization 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.

At the special meeting of the Panel on 20 October 2011, the Administration advised that the eHR Office had commissioned a Privacy Impact Assessment ("PIA") scoping study in August 2010 to prepare, among others, a strategy plan for a full scale PIA, which would be conducted in three phases. The first phase PIA was planned for commencement before end 2011. A Privacy Compliance Audit would be implemented upon operation of individual components of the system. The eHR Office would also conduct a Security Risk Assessment and a Security Audit in collaboration with the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer in respect of the whole eHR Programme and individual development designs and projects.

The Panel was briefed on 12 December 2011 on the proposed Legal, Privacy and Security Framework for eHR Sharing set out in the consultation document issued by the Administration on the same day for public consultation till 11 February 2012. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the outcome of the public consultation for further discussion.

9. Implementation of the Public-Private Chronic Disease Management Shared Care Programme

2nd/3rd quarter, 2012

The Panel was briefed on the three-year pilot Programme at the meeting on 8 March 2010. The Administration advised that the Hospital Authority ("HA") planned to send invitation letters to eligible patients in batches and arrange briefing sessions to introduce the Programme details starting from 2nd quarter, 2010. The Administration agreed to revert

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to the Panel on the progress of the Programme one year after implementation.

10. Implementation of hospital accreditation in public hospitals

2nd/3rd quarter, 2012

The Administration briefed members on the implementation of hospital accreditation in public hospitals at the Panel meeting on 9 May 2011.

At the meeting, members agreed to receive views from frontline healthcare staff on the subject. A special meeting was held on 4 July 2011 for the purpose. The Administration and HA were requested to update the Panel on the progress of the accreditation programme in the future.

11. Mandatory registration of proprietary Chinese medicines

(see Note)

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

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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 was expired on 10 November 2010 and no resolution has been passed by LegCo to amend the Commencement Notice or to extend the vetting period.

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. Two special meetings were held on 17 January 2011 and 15 February 2011 for the purpose.

At the meeting on 14 February 2011, the Panel decided to appoint a subcommittee to study issues relating to the registration of pCm. Noting that more than eight subcommittees on policy issues were already in operation and the subcommittee would be put on the waiting list, members agreed that the Panel would follow up on the subject pending the activation of the subcommittee.

The Panel agreed to the proposed terms of reference, work plan and time frame of the subcommittee at the meeting on 14 March 2011.

Note: The House Committee agreed at the meeting on 8 April 2011 that the Subcommittee on Registration of Proprietary Chinese Medicines appointed under the Panel could be activated in

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June 2011. The Panel agreed that the subject on proprietary Chinese medicines would be followed up by the Subcommittee. Under the chairmanship of Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau, the Subcommittee had held a total of four meetings and had completed its work. The Subcommittee would make a report to the Panel on 13 February 2012.

12. 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.

13. 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 review on the pilot project.

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14. Construction of Tin Shui Wai Hospital

To be confirmed

The Chief Executive announced in his 2008-2009 Policy Address that the Administration planned to construct a public hospital in Tin Shui Wai to meet the needs for hospital services in the district. Works were expected to commence in 2011 for completion in 2015.

At the special meeting on 16 October 2009, the Administration advised the Panel that it had consulted the Yuen Long District Council ("YLDC") on the Tin Shui Wai Hospital project and the site selection in March 2009. Members of YLDC supported the plan to build the hospital and agreed that relevant technical assessments and studies (including traffic impact assessment and environmental impact assessment) should be conducted on the proposed site (Area 32 of Tin Shui Wai) before deciding on the hospital site.

At the special meeting on 15 October 2010, the Administration advised that the relevant technical assessments had been completed and it would further consult YLDC before end 2010. At the special meeting on 20 October 2011, the Panel was advised that members of YLDC supported the project and the hospital site. The Administration would consult the Panel on the project and commence tendering procedures. It would then seek funding approval from LegCo based on the tender price and aim to complete the construction works in mid 2016.

15. Public and private hospital development

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 13 October 2011, concern was raised over the infrastructure support of the healthcare system, including the service capacity of the public and private healthcare sectors to meet the increasing demand for healthcare services. The Administration was requested to brief the Panel on its plans for the development or redevelopment of public hospitals, as well as the development of the medical

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services industry, including the disposal of the four pieces of land reserved for private hospital development (at Wong Chuk Hang, Tseung Kwan O, Lantau and Tai Po respectively), as highlighted in the 2011-2012 Policy Address.

The Financial Secretary announced in his Budget Speech of 2012-2013 the redevelopment of the Queen Mary Hospital ("QMH") and Kwong Wah Hospital ("KWH") in the coming year. The redeveloped QMH would provide upgraded accident and emergency services and cardiology services. For KWH, redevelopment would involve revamping existing medical facilities, and strengthening the hospital's Chinese and Western medicines shared care services, including Chinese medicine in-patient service.

16. The "approved person" system adopted by HA for the dispensaries of its General Outpatient Clinics

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 14 November 2011, members agreed that the Panel should discuss the matter at a future meeting. The letter dated 14 July 2011 from the Hong Kong Government Pharmaceutical Dispenser Association to the Secretary for Civil Service expressing views on the subject and the Administration's reply dated 12 October 2011 to the Association have been issued to members vide LC Paper Nos. CB(2)154/11-12(01) and (02) respectively.

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17. 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.

At the meeting between LegCo Members and Wan Chai District Council members on 13 January 2011, the subject of further opening up the medical services market in the Mainland to provide more choices for elders residing on the Mainland was discussed. Members attending the meeting agreed that the views of Wan Chai District Council members be referred to the Panel for consideration.

18. 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.

19. 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 LegCo 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.