

Panel on Health Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 10 October 2011)

**Proposed timing
for Discussion**

1. Proposal for setting up a Health and Medical Research Fund

Nov 2011

The Administration will brief members on the proposal announced in the 2011-2012 Budget to set up a new Health and Medical Research Fund ("HMRF") for research and development in public health and medical services. The HMRF will consolidate the existing Health and Health Services Research Fund and Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases, and will also fund research projects, facilities and build capacity in specific areas of advanced medical research.

The item was originally scheduled for discussion at the regular meeting of the Panel in July 2011. At the request of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, the discussion of the item will be deferred to a future meeting.

2. Electronic health record sharing

Dec 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.

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

Proposed timing for Discussion

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 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.

3. Proposed Public-Private-Partnership Pilot Scheme on radiological imaging services

4th quarter, 2011

The Administration will brief members on a proposed pilot scheme to improve radiological imaging services for selected cancer patients in the Hospital Authority ("HA") through public-private-partnership in the form of service purchasing.

The item was originally scheduled for discussion at the regular meeting of the Panel in July 2011. At the request of the Administration and with the concurrence of the Chairman, the discussion of the item will be deferred to a future meeting.

4. Health Protection Scheme

4th quarter, 2011 /
1st quarter, 2012

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

**Proposed timing
for Discussion**

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 Panel will seek the agreement of the House Committee at its meeting on 21 October 2011 to activate the subcommittee.

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.

**Proposed timing
for Discussion**

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.

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 the Legislative Council 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. 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

**Proposed timing
for Discussion**

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

9. 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 was requested to update the Panel on the progress of the accreditation programme in the future.

10. 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.

Proposed timing for Discussion

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 was 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.

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.

**Proposed timing
for Discussion**

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 June 2011. The Panel agreed that the subject on proprietary Chinese medicines would be followed up by the Subcommittee. The first meeting of the Subcommittee on Registration of Proprietary Chinese Medicines with the Administration was held on 20 July 2011.

11. 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.

12. 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.

**Proposed timing
for Discussion**

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.

13. 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 Legislative Council 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.

14. 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**

15. 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.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
10 October 2011