

For information  
on 13 February 2012

**Legislative Council Panel on Transport  
and Panel on Financial Affairs**

**Joint Subcommittee on Issues Relating to Insurance Coverage  
for the Transport Sector**

**Supplementary Information on Measures on  
Treating Automobile Accident Victims in Canada and Singapore and  
the Feasibility of Setting up a Data-sharing Mechanism in Hong Kong**

**Introduction**

This paper provides additional information on –

- (a) the licensing and/or regulatory regime being considered by the Government of Ontario, Canada for clinics that provide health care services to automobile accident victims;
- (b) the study being conducted by the insurance and medical sectors in Singapore regarding the feasibility of designating medical specialists who can diagnose non-hospitalization injuries (such as whiplash) and assess such claims; and
- (c) the feasibility of setting up a data-sharing mechanism for fraud prevention/ detection in Hong Kong.

**Licensing and/or Regulatory Regime for Clinics in Ontario**

2. In Ontario, Canada, it is noted that a number of automobile insurance fraud cases are linked to medical clinics that provide health care services to automobile accident victims. There were past incidents where clinics recommended certain treatments for exaggerated or non-existent injuries so as

to receive payments from insurers. The Ontario authorities are now considering whether it would be appropriate to introduce a licensing and/or regulatory regime for these clinics. Given the complexity of the concept and more analysis and consideration would be required, no decision has been made.

### **Designated Medical Specialists for Non-hospitalization Injuries in Singapore**

3. In Singapore, the insurance and medical sectors are examining the feasibility of designating medical specialists who can diagnose non-hospitalization injuries (such as whiplash) and assess such claims. Their primary concern is that these injuries are difficult to diagnose and yet easy to be faked due to their subjective symptomatic nature. Having designated medical specialists might lead to better diagnosis and assessment of injuries. On the other hand, it is uncertain whether having designated medical specialists would actually make a significant difference in the diagnosis of whiplash cases or screening out fraudulent claims. So far, no conclusion has been made.

### **Data-sharing Mechanism for Fraud Prevention/ Detection**

4. The Hong Kong Federation of Insurers (“HKFI”) is exploring the idea of establishing a data-sharing mechanism for fraud prevention/ detection. Given that the mechanism would be a major information infrastructure with legal, financial, commercial and privacy implications, HKFI considers it necessary to proceed with utmost caution and discuss thoroughly among its member companies. HKFI will continue its deliberations on the matter.

**Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau  
Office of the Commissioner of Insurance  
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