

**For discussion  
on 12 February 2018**

## **Legislative Council Panel on Health Services**

### **Update on Chinese Medicine Development in Hong Kong**

#### **PURPOSE**

This paper briefs Members on the latest work of the Government regarding the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong.

#### **BACKGROUND**

2. The Government has all along been committed to promoting the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong. The Chinese Medicine Development Committee (CMDC) was established in 2013 and the Government has taken forward a number of initiatives and commitments in developing Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, including the development of Chinese medicine hospital, development of integrated Chinese-Western medicine, the expansion of the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards Project as well as the setting up of the Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute.

#### **LATEST DEVELOPMENT**

3. As announced in the Chief Executive's 2017 Policy Address, the Government will set up a dedicated unit under the Food and Health Bureau (FHB), namely the Chinese Medicine Unit, to oversee the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong. The Government will also decide on the positioning of Chinese medicine in public healthcare system and enhance the operation model of the Chinese Medicine Centres for Training and Research. In addition, a Chinese Medicine Hospital Project Office will be set up under FHB to take forward the development of Chinese medicine hospital.

4. We have set out our latest staffing proposals for the Chinese Medicine Unit in LC Paper No. CB(2)296/17-18(03) submitted to LegCo Panel on Health Services and the proposals are subject to deliberations in the LegCo Establishment Subcommittee (under LC Paper No. EC(2017-18)18) and Finance Committee.

## **GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**

5. The Government has maintained close liaison with the industry. In response to views sought, we are prepared to continue to promote and drive the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, and provide the necessary funding support, including the priority areas explained below.

### ***Chinese medicine specialization***

6. The Chinese medicine industry and academia have been examining the possibility of the development of Chinese medicine specialization. We will invite relevant industry stakeholders to organize forums and training courses and to explore options for specialization to tie in with the development of the first Chinese medicine hospital in Hong Kong.

### ***Implementation of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)***

7. The Chinese medicines industry have expressed concern about the difficulties faced by the manufacturers of local proprietary Chinese medicines (pCm) especially those small-and-medium-sized enterprises to be GMP-compliant, particularly on the high cost associated with setting up GMP facilities. The Government is considering options to offer financial assistance to prospective GMP manufacturers in engaging GMP consultancy service providers in seeking technical advice, enrolling in manufacturing-related courses for competency enhancement, etc.

### ***Registration of proprietary Chinese medicines***

8. Since the launching of registration system for pCm under the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549) in 2003, thousands of applications have been rejected as applicants are not able to provide documents required for registration. We are prepared to subsidize the industry in procuring consultancy services that assist registration applicants with the necessary preparation work for applying a formal registration of HKC (i.e. Certificate of registration of pCm).

### *Enhancement of warehouse management and logistics*

9. There is a need to improve the existing warehouse management and logistics in wholesalers and retailers of Chinese herbal medicines to ensure standardization, safe handling, storage and transportation of Chinese herbal medicines. The Government is considering ways to support the industry in system enhancement<sup>1</sup> and equipment upgrade<sup>2</sup>, in order to improve monitoring and inventory management that facilitates tracing and recall of products from the market. The Department of Health will also discuss with the industry and provide guidelines as a reference for the market.

### *Knowledge discovery platform*

10. The Chinese medicine industry does not have a database with standardized nomenclature<sup>3</sup>. An open-accessed platform integrating bio-medical database for Chinese medicine should be established to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration. We plan to engage experts, including but not limited to tertiary institutions, to formulate strategies to facilitate the development of the platform.

### *Chinese medicine research*

11. The industry has expressed a view that more research solely on Chinese medicine would be needed and conducive to the long term development and specialization of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong. Our plan is that upon the establishment of the Chinese Medicine Unit, we will arrange sharing sessions so that research institutions and relevant stakeholders can exchange ideas on topics worthy of applied research, and offer facilitation as appropriate. The Government's focus would be on providing evidence-based support for Chinese medicine services.

## **WAY FORWARD**

12. We will consult the CMDC on strategies and measures that support the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, relative

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<sup>1</sup> For example, application of IT system to improve efficiency in stock management, purchase, sale record, generation of product label and invoice, which can incorporate the batch number.

<sup>2</sup> For example, monitoring devices such as calibrated thermometer, hygrometer or equivalent equipment.

<sup>3</sup> For example, the categories currently without standard keywords include Chinese herbal medicine, chemical and biological medicine, syndrome, symptom, disease, acupuncture, herb compound names, Chinese patent medicine, herb formulae.

priorities and resource implications.

### **ADVICE SOUGHT**

13. Members are invited to note and comment on the proposed measures to support the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong.

**Food and Health Bureau**  
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