

Panel on Health Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 22 April 2020)

	Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
1.	Genomic medicine Item proposed by the Administration. At the policy briefing cum meeting on 15 October 2018, members were advised that the Government would provide funding to introduce a large-scale Hong Kong Genome Project ("HKGP"). The Panel was briefed on the details of the project at its meeting on 21 January 2019. At the policy briefing on 21 October 2019, members were advised that the Steering Committee on Genomic Medicine established to study the strategies for developing genomic medicine in Hong Kong planned to submit its report ("the Report") to the Government in end-2019. In addition, the Hong Kong Genome Institute would be set up in 2020 to take forward HKGP. Members will be briefed on the Report and the latest update of HKGP. In December 2019, the Administration advised that it would brief the Panel on the subject in March 2020. The proposed timing for discussion was revised to the second quarter of 2020 in March 2020.	2 nd quarter of 2020
2.	Update on Samaritan Fund and Community Care Fund ("CCF") Medical Assistance Programmes At the meeting on 19 November 2018, in the context of discussing the review findings of the means test of Samaritan Fund and CCF Medical Assistance Programmes, members were advised that the Administration would revert, as and when appropriate, to the Panel on improvement to the mechanisms for	3 rd quarter of 2020

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inclusion of drugs in and processing the applications under the safety net.

The Panel held a special meeting on 11 December 2018 to receive views from members of the public on the above review findings. At the meeting, the Administration undertook to revert to the Panel the progress of the implementation of the proposed enhancement measures after 12 months of implementation.

At the meeting on 20 May 2019, Hon KWONG Chun-yu suggested that the Administration should brief the Panel on the implementation progress of the First Phase Programme of Medical Assistance Programmes under CCF.

The Administration's proposed timing for discussion of the subject was revised from the second quarter of 2020 to the third quarter of 2020 in March 2020.

3. Voluntary registration scheme for the development of nursing specialties To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration.

At the policy briefing on 21 October 2019, members were advised that the Nursing Council of Hong Kong planned to launch a voluntary registration scheme for the development of nursing specialties in early 2020, in order to pave way for the eventual setting up of a statutory registration regime.

The Administration revised the proposed timing for discussion from the second quarter of 2020 to a future meeting in April 2020.

4. Review of dental care services and relevant manpower plan To be confirmed

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Discussion of the subject "Review of dental care services", which covered items (i) to (iii) below, was originally scheduled for the regular meeting of the Panel on 17 June 2019 which was subsequently cancelled. The paper provided by the Administration for the above meeting has been issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1632/18-19(03).

In the 2019-2020 session, discussion of the subject was originally scheduled for the regular meeting of the Panel on 20 March 2020 but has subsequently been deferred to a future meeting due to time constraint at that meeting. The paper provided by the Administration for the March regular meeting has been issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)711/19-20(05).

(i) Review of dental care services

Pursuant to the discussion at the meeting between the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel and the Secretary for Food and Health ("SFH") to discuss the Panel's work plan for the 2018-2019 session on 22 October 2018, the Chairman has suggested that issues relating to "Provision of dental services for adult patients with intellectual disability and with financial needs" (item (ii) below); the project on dental services for persons with intellectual disability namely "Healthy Teeth Collaboration" managed by the Department of Health ("DH"); and "Review of oral health goals" (item (iii) below) should be discussed in the context of discussing the subject. At the special meeting on 21 October 2019, Hon Elizabeth QUAT suggested that the Panel should discuss the provision of public dental care services.

(ii) Provision of dental services for adult patients with intellectual disability and with financial needs

At the meeting on 17 July 2017, in the context of discussing the provision of public dental services, members were advised that the Administration was

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currently evaluating the operation of the Pilot Project on Dental Service for Patients with Intellectual Disability, and also working out the arrangements for expanding the aforesaid dental service including implementation of relevant training programmes. The Administration advised at the meeting that it would brief the Panel on the way forward in the 2017-2018 legislative session. At the meeting on 12 October 2017, Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG considered that the Panel should discuss the subject at the earliest possible time in the 2017-2018 session.

(iii) Review of oral health goals

At the meeting on 17 July 2017, in the context of discussing the provision of public dental services, members were advised that DH planned to set up an expert group to review and formulate appropriate oral health goals for the population of Hong Kong. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the outcome of the review.

5. Accident and emergency service provided by the Hospital Authority ("HA") and responses taken by HA in relation to mass gathering and confrontation incidents in the community

To be confirmed

Discussion of the subject "Accident and emergency service provided by HA", which covered the items (i) and (ii) below, was originally scheduled for the regular meeting of the Panel on 17 June 2019 which was subsequently cancelled. The relevant paper provided by the Administration for the above meeting has been issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1632/18-19(05).

In November 2019, the Administration suggested to combine the discussion of the subject with "Responses taken by HA in relation to mass gathering and confrontation incidents in the community" (item (iii)

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below). Members raised no other views to the suggestion.

(i) Accident and emergency service provided by HA

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Hon CHAN Han-pan suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject in the 2018-2019 session.

Pursuant to the outcomes of discussion at the meeting between the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel and SFH to discuss the Panel's work plan for the 2018-2019 session on 22 October 2018, the Chairman has suggested and the Administration has agreed that the Panel should be briefed on the subject, covering, among others, issues relating to "Handling of public requests for emergency medical needs within the vicinity of public hospitals" (item (ii) below).

(ii) Handling of public requests for emergency medical needs within the vicinity of public hospitals

Hon Alice MAK proposed vide her letter dated 10 August 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(2)2004/14-15(01)) that the Panel should discuss issues relating to the handling of emergency medical requests by public hospitals arising from a North Lantau Hospital incident.

The Chairman instructed that the subject of handling of public requests for emergency medical needs within vicinity of public hospitals be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion. In October 2015, the Administration advised that it would brief the Panel on the subject in the fourth quarter of 2015. The proposed timing for discussion was further revised to the first half of 2016 in November 2015, and to the second half of 2016 in May 2016.

(iii) Responses taken by HA in relation to mass gathering and confrontation incidents in the community

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Hon Charles Peter MOK raised concern over issues on the accessing of HA patients' personal information by the law enforcement agencies vide his two letters dated 17 June 2019, which were respectively addressed to the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data and the Chief Executive of HA and copied to Chairman of the Panel (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1689/18-19(01) and (02)).

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki proposed vide his letter dated 19 June 2019 that the Panel should discuss the subject as early as possible. Given the cancellation of the July regular meeting of the Panel, the Chairman instructed that the subject be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

6. Procedure in organ transplant

To be confirmed

Hon CHAN Han-pan proposed vide his letter dated 28 August 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(2)2062/14-15(01)) that the Panel should discuss issues relating to an organ donation and transplantation incident in the Prince of Wales Hospital whereby it was found that the donor had renal cell carcinoma after the carrying out of the heart and lungs transplantations. The Chairman instructed that the subject of procedure in organ transplant be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

Dr Hon Pierre CHAN proposed vide his letter dated 2 May 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1323/16-17(01)) that the Panel should discuss at the earliest possible time issues relating to organ donation and transplant.

7. Regulation of pharmaceutical products

To be confirmed

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki proposed vide his letter dated 9 October 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(2)2229/14-15(01)) that the Panel should discuss issues relating to the

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monitoring of the unauthorized sale of pharmaceutical products and invited views from deputations on the subject. The Chairman instructed that the subject be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

Dr Hon Helena WONG proposed via her letter dated 29 November 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)373/18-19(01)) that the Panel should discuss the management and testing of pharmaceutical products. The Chairman instructed that the subject be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion. In response to the request made by Dr Hon Helena WONG in the letter, the Administration has provided for members' reference an information paper on the regulation and testing of pharmaceutical products (LC Paper No. CB(2)502/18-19(01)).

At the special meeting on 21 October 2019, Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested that the Panel should discuss the emergence of suspected counterfeit vaccines in the market.

8. Women's health

To be confirmed

Hon Elizabeth QUAT proposed at the meeting on 15 October 2015 and vide her letter dated 20 October 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(2)117/15-16(01)) that the subject on women's health, including the prevention of breast and cervical cancers and provision of cervical cancer vaccination for the female population, should be discussed by the Panel in the 2015-2016 session.

At the meeting on 18 October 2016, Hon Elizabeth QUAT suggested that the provision of breast cancer screening should be discussed by the Panel in the 2016-2017 session.

At the meeting on 12 October 2017, Dr Hon Helena WONG and Hon Elizabeth QUAT proposed that the

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Panel should discuss the subject at the earliest possible time in the 2017-2018 session.

At the policy briefing cum meeting on 16 October 2017, members were advised that CCF would implement a three-year pilot scheme to provide subsidized cervical cancer screening and preventive education for eligible low-income women.

Hon CHAN Han-pan suggested vide his letter dated 4 June 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1536/17-18(01)) that the Panel should discuss at the earliest possible time the supply of Human Papillomavirus ("HPV") vaccines.

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan and Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG suggested that the Panel should discuss the provision of breast cancer screening at the earliest possible time in the 2018-2019 session.

At the policy briefing cum meeting on 15 October 2018, members were advised that free HPV vaccination would be introduced to school girls of particular age groups starting from the 2019-2020 school year. Separately, a government-commissioned study to identify risk factors associated with breast cancer for local women was expected to be completed in the latter half of 2019.

At the special meeting on 21 October 2019, Hon Elizabeth QUAT suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject, in particular the provision of breast cancer screening.

At the meeting between the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel and SFH to discuss the Panel's work plan for the 2019-2020 session on 29 October 2019, it was agreed that the Administration would brief the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Support for Cancer Patients on, among others, the findings of the commissioned study on risk factors associated with breast cancer for local women which was expected to be completed in the latter half of 2019.

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At its meeting on 17 March 2020, the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Support for Cancer Patients decided to refer the subject of implementation of breast cancer screening to the Panel for follow up with the Administration. The Administration was requested by the Subcommittee to revert to the Panel in May 2020 the findings of its commissioned study for The University of Hong Kong on the risk factors associated with breast cancer for local women, and the way forward for implementing breast cancer screening.

- 9. Review of the Human Reproductive Technology Ordinance (Cap. 561)** To be confirmed

The item was referred to the Panel for follow-up by the Bills Committee on Human Reproductive Technology (Amendment) Bill 2015.

During the scrutiny of the Bill, the Administration has advised that it would work with the Council on Human Reproductive Technology ("CHRT") to look into the need to amend the Human Reproductive Technology Ordinance comprehensively having regard to the stakeholders' feedback and the operating experience of CHRT. The Administration undertook to keep the Panel informed of the progress.

- 10. Provision of one-stop services for victims of sexual violence in and prevention of crime in psychiatric wards of public hospitals** To be confirmed

In November 2019, the Administration suggested to merge the discussion of items (i) and (ii) below. Members raised on other views on the suggestion.

(i) Provision of one-stop services for victims of sexual violence in public hospitals

At the meeting on 18 October 2016, Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested that the Panel should discuss the

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provision of one-stop services for victims of sexual violence in public hospitals in the 2016-2017 session.

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject at the earliest possible time in the 2018-2019 session.

(ii) Prevention of crime in psychiatric wards of the HA hospitals

Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen suggested vide her letter dated 16 January 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(2)623/16-17(01)) that the Panel should discuss issues relating to the sexual assault case of the psychiatric wards of the Kowloon Hospital. Members agreed at the meeting on 16 January 2017 that the subject "Prevention of crime in psychiatric wards of the HA hospitals" be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

Dr Hon Pierre CHAN further suggested vide his letter dated 14 February 2017 (LC Paper No. CB(2)806/16-17(01)) that the Panel should discuss the security measures for public hospital wards in the light of the sexual assault cases of the psychiatric wards of the HA hospitals.

11. Provision of atrial fibrillation screening

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Hon KWONG Chun-yu suggested that the provision of atrial fibrillation screening to facilitate early identification of potential stroke cases should be discussed by the Panel in the 2018-2019 session.

Hon KWONG Chun-yu proposed via his letter dated 13 November 2018 (LC Paper No. CB(2)257/18-19(01)) that the Panel should hold a meeting to receive views from members of the public on measures for stroke prevention, including the provision of atrial

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fibrillation screening.

12. Specialist services provided by HA

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Hon CHAN Han-pan suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject in the 2018-2019 session.

13. Pilot Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 16 July 2018, the Panel was briefed on the implementation progress of the Pilot Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions. Members were advised that the speech therapist profession had been granted accreditation. The accreditation process of audiologist and dietitian professions was expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2018, whereas the accreditation process of educational psychologist and clinical psychologist professions was expected to commence in the third and fourth quarters of 2018 respectively.

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Dr Hon Helena WONG and Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG suggested that the Administration should update the Panel on the latest implementation progress of the Pilot Scheme in the 2018-2019 session. At the same meeting, Hon SHIU Ka-chun suggested that the Administration should brief the Panel on its plan to, in the light of the evaluation findings of the Pilot Scheme, study how to formulate a statutory registration regime for relevant accredited professions as announced in the Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address.

The Panel held a special meeting to receive views from members of the public on the subject on 10 December 2018. The Administration advised at the meeting that the Accreditation Agent announced the accreditation results for the speech therapist and audiologist

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professions in April and November 2018 respectively, and expected to announce the accreditation results for dietitian and educational psychologist professions in phases by the first quarter of 2019. Separately, the accreditation process for the clinical psychologist profession has commenced. Upon completion of the accreditation, the Accreditation Agent will review the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme and report to the Administration with recommended measures for improvement. The Administration would study how to formulate a statutory registration regime for relevant accredited professions based on the Pilot Scheme.

- 14. Review of Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme and study on High Risk Pool proposal** To be confirmed

The item was referred to the Panel for follow-up by the Bills Committee on Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 4) Bill 2018.

In the course of scrutinizing the Bill, the Administration has undertaken to revert, as and when appropriate, to the Panel on its review of the effectiveness of Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme after its implementation and the progress in re-examining the High Risk Pool proposal.

- 15. Good Samaritan law for first aid given in bona fide medical emergency** To be confirmed

At the meeting on 19 November 2018, Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject at the earliest possible time in the 2018-2019 session.

- 16. Drug Formulary of HA** To be confirmed

The Public Complaints Office of the Legislative Council Secretariat referred the item to the Panel vide a

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referral memorandum (LC Paper No. CB(2)605/18-19(01)) (Restricted to members only), requesting the Panel to follow-up with the Administration and HA on the policy issues relating to inclusion of drugs for treatment of serious mental disorder in the HA's Drug Formulary. The Chairman instructed that the subject be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

- 17. Implementation of the regulatory regime under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633)** To be confirmed

The item was referred to the Panel for follow-up by Subcommittee on Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Specification of Date for Section 135(1)(a)) Notice and Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Specification of Date for Section 136(1)(a)) Notice.

In the course of scrutinizing the two Notices, the Administration has, in response to members' request, undertaken to brief the Panel on a yearly basis on the progress made towards the full implementation of the new regulatory regime under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance.

At the policy briefing on 21 October 2019, members were advised that the application period for licences for private hospitals started on 2 July 2019, and that for day procedure centres would commence on 2 January 2020. For clinics, applications for licences and requests for letters of exemption would commence in 2021 the earliest.

- 18. Prevention of Osteoporosis** To be confirmed

At the special meeting on 21 October 2019, Hon Elizabeth QUAT proposed a discussion of the subject.

Discussion of the subject was originally scheduled for the regular meeting of the Panel on 14 February 2020 which was subsequently cancelled.

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- 19. Corporate governance and manpower situation of HA and the use of the additional funding earmarked in the 2019-2020 Budget for HA's work concerning its manpower, drug treatments and medical equipment** To be confirmed

In November 2019, the Administration suggested to merge the discussion of items (i) and (ii) below. Members raised on other views on the suggestion.

(i) Corporate governance and manpower situation of HA

The Panel received views from deputations on the subject at its special meeting on 19 March 2019. Subsequently, Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan requested vide her letter dated 1 April 2019 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1164/18-19(01)) that the Panel should hold a follow up discussion in this regard. The Chairman instructed that the subject be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

The Chairman suggested vide his letter dated 28 June 2019 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1784/18-19(01)), which was addressed to SFH and copied to the Panel, that the Panel should follow up the human resources management and workplace bullying problem of HA and receive views from deputations on the matter. The Chairman suggested again vide his another letter dated 9 October 2019 to SFH (LC Paper No. CB(2)1963/18-19(01)) that the Panel should discuss the subject.

At the special meeting on 21 October 2019, Dr Hon Helena WONG proposed a discussion of the subject.

At the meeting between the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel and SFH to discuss the Panel's work plan for the 2019-2020 session on 29 October 2019, it was agreed that the Administration

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should brief the Panel on the subject in the 2019-2020 session.

- (ii) *Progress report on the use of the additional funding earmarked in the 2019-2020 Budget for HA's work concerning its manpower, drug treatments and medical equipment*

At the special meeting on 19 March 2019, the Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the progress on implementation of various measures by HA in the following areas with the additional funding earmarked in the 2019-2020 Budget: (a) the use of the \$721 million for boosting staff morale and retaining talents; (b) the use of the \$400 million for expanding the scope of HA's Drug Formulary; and (c) the use of the \$5 billion for expediting the upgrading and acquisition of medical equipment. Having consulted HA, the Administration has provided in July 2019 the action plan of HA for using the above funding (LC Paper No. CB(2)1788/18-19(01)).

- 20. Health impacts of the chemicals deployed by the Police to disperse crowds** To be confirmed

Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki proposed vide his letter dated 21 October 2019 (LC Paper No. CB(2)35/19-20(01)), which was tabled at the special meeting of the Panel held on the same day, that the Panel should hold a joint meeting with the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene to discuss the health effects of the chemicals deployed by the Police in dispersal operations. At the meeting, Mr CHAN Chi-chuen, Dr Helena WONG and Mr KWONG Chun-yu echoed the view of Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Chairman has directed that the Administration be requested to provide a written response to the issues raised in the letter to facilitate the Panel's consideration of how the matter

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should be followed up. The Administration's response has been issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)148/19-20(02) on 7 November 2019.

- 21. Maintenance of professionalism in service delivery by healthcare professionals in public hospitals** To be confirmed

At the special meeting on 21 October 2019, Hon Starry LEE, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG, Hon CHAN Han-pan and Hon Elizabeth QUAT suggested that the Administration and HA should brief the Panel on measures in place to ensure the healthcare professionals' professionalism in the delivery of services in public hospitals in the light of their participation in mass gathering activities taken place in hospital premises.

At the meeting between the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel and SFH to discuss the Panel's work plan for the 2019-2020 session on 29 October 2019, the Administration was requested to provide a written response to members' concerns in this regard to facilitate the Panel's consideration of how the matter should be followed up. The Administration's response has been issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)148/19-20(01) on 7 November 2019.

- 22. End-of-life care: Legislative proposals on advance directives and dying in place** To be confirmed

At the meeting on 8 November 2019, the Panel was briefed on the public consultation on the subject being conducted for the period from 6 September to 16 December 2019. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the results of the public consultation when available.

At the meeting on 13 December 2019, the Panel received views from deputations on the subject.

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23.	Effectiveness of the internal auditing mechanism of DH and HA	To be confirmed

Hon CHAN Han-pan proposed vide his letter dated 17 March 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)727/19-20(01)) that the Panel should discuss the effectiveness of the internal auditing mechanism of DH and HA.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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