

**LegCo Panel on Health Service
List of issues to be considered**

1. Year 2000 Compliance in the public and private health sectors

It was resolved at the House Committee meeting on 12 March 1999 that the issue should be followed up by Panels with regard to their respective policy areas. The Health Services Panel is required to discuss Y2K compliance in public and private health sectors and their formulation of contingency plans.

Relevant extracts from the information paper on the subject provided by the Information Technology & Broadcasting Bureau is attached in **Appendix**. The subject is proposed for discussion at the meeting on 10 May 1999.

2. Consultancy Report on Hong Kong's health care system

A briefing on the report entitled "Improving Hong Kong's Health Care System: Why and For Whom" Was given by Professor William HSIAO and Professor Winnie YIP of the Harvard Team at the meeting on 12 April 1999. The closing date for public comments on the report is 15 July 1999. Members may wish to consider follow-up action.

3. Utilization of the Clinical Pathology Laboratory Centre (CPLC) of the Department of Health after the setting up of a Laboratory Automation System(LAS)

In approving the Director of Health's proposal of setting up a LAS to enhance the capacity and efficiency of the CPLC, the Finance Committee at its meeting on 9 October 1997 requested the Administration to explore the feasibility of allowing the private health care sector to make use of the spare capacity of the system to offset costs.

4. Visiting health teams for the elderly

At the meeting held on 14 July 1998, Mr LAW Chi-kwong proposed to discuss the visiting health teams for the elderly which the Administration had pledged to set up in 1998-99 in the 1997 Policy Address.

Scheduled for discussion on **19 April 1999**.

5. Investigation report on the kidney dialysis incident at the Hong Kong & Sanatorium Hospital

Dr LEONG Che-hung proposed to discuss the subject when the death inquiry into this incident was completed.

Tentatively scheduled for discussion on **10 May 1999**.

6. Control of proprietary Chinese medicine

Following the death of a woman who was suspected of taking a slimming proprietary Chinese medicine containing western drug, Dr LEONG Che-hung proposed at the meeting on 14 December 1998 to discuss the control of proprietary medicines at a future meeting.

7. Monitoring of Private Hospitals

The subject was last discussed at the meeting on 9 November 1998. Members remained concerned about the lack of a monitoring mechanism for private hospitals and agreed to have a follow-up discussion on the recommendations of the Medical Development Advisory Committee.

Scheduled for discussion on **19 April 1999**.

8. Registration of ancillary dental personnel

The subject was discussed at the meeting on 11 January 1999 when it was agreed that the Administration would conduct further consultation and report back to the Panel.

Scheduled for discussion on **10 May 1999**.

9. Dental policy and review of oral health goals

The subject was discussed at the meeting on 11 January 1999 and the Administration was asked to provide supplementary information on the dental policy in writing. The item is tentatively scheduled for discussion on **10 May 1999**.

10. Undesirable medical advertisements

Having regard to medical and dental services provided in the mainland were advertised in Hong Kong, members considered it necessary to discuss the issue with the Hong Kong Medical Council as its Code of Practice prohibited doctors from advertising their services.

11. Mental Health Service

The subject was last discussed at the meeting on 8 February 1999. The Administration will report to the Panel on the outcome of the longitudinal prospective study which aims to find out the causes of the increase in first attendance of outpatient services.

12. Control of unregistered pharmaceutical and blood/blood products in Hong Kong

The meeting on 8 February 1999 did not have the time to discuss the control of blood products. Members may therefore wish to discuss the subject at a future meeting. As the Pharmacy and Poison Board is conducting a review on the existing mechanisms controlling the imports of pharmaceuticals, the Administration will brief members on the outcome in due course.

Legislative Council Secretariat

15 April 1999

Public Health Services

16. As at 15 January 1999, over 90% of the mission-critical systems in public hospitals were confirmed to be compliant or had been rectified. The Hospital Authority (HA) aims to complete the rectification work for the remaining mission-critical systems by end June 1999.

17. As for contingency planning, HA has set up a task force to formulate contingency plans for the Authority as a whole and for individual hospitals. The framework of the contingency plan will be ready by March 1999 while the detailed plans will be available by June 1999.

18. In parallel, the Health and Welfare Bureau will, in consultation with HA and Department of Health, co-ordinate the preparation of a sector-wide contingency plan covering both the public and private medical sectors.

19. For private hospitals, nursing homes and maternity homes, the Department of Health had conducted inspection visits to these organisations in late 1998 and requested them to provide a full list of their mission-critical systems and their compliance positions as well as their contingency plans for close monitoring. As of 15 January 1999, about 35% of the non-compliant mission-critical systems in these organisations have been rectified.