LegCo Panel on Health Services
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.

    Scheduled for discussion 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 agreed to discuss the report in June 1999.

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 (VHT) for the elderly**

    The subject was discussed at the meeting on 19 April 1999. The Administration was asked to review the provision of the VHT service and to assess the cost- effectiveness under the present arrangement of involving both Department of Health and Hospital Authority to provide the service.

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

    This item will be discussed when the relevant death inquiry is completed.

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 19 April 1999. The Administration was requested to explain its role in the monitoring of administrative matters (such as on fee-charging) of private hospitals and the clinical performance of visiting doctors in private hospitals. The Administration also undertook to follow up with private hospitals on the preparation of more detailed lists of charges for display in private hospitals and for distribution to patients on admission to the hospitals.

Scheduled for further discussion on **14 June 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.

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.

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 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
6 May 1999

Checklist on key issues related to the Y2K problem

Note:

a) The questions are worked out to facilitate members' consideration of the subject matter and are by no means exhaustive. Individual Panels are at liberty to raise further questions.

b) Individual Government Bureau will also oversee the Y2K-compliance exercise within other Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) under its policy portfolio.

c) Whilst two sets of questions are drawn up for the Administration and NGOs separately, the majority of which are interchangeable as appropriate.

Questions put to the Administration

1. Extent of the Y2K problem

   (a) What are the policy areas and related NGOs overseen by your Bureau? Which are the mission-critical computer and embedded systems?
   (b) Has your Bureau conducted a Y2K awareness campaign?
   (c) Has your Bureau defined and documented the potential impact of the Y2K problem?
   (d) What are the potential risks of the Y2K computer failures to our daily lives/transactions?

2. Resources to tackle the problem

   (a) What are the resources (in terms of funds and manpower) in your Bureau/departments devoted to the Y2K problem? What is the involvement of top management?
   (b) Are you using internal or external resources?
   (c) Are "business" as well as "information technology" staff involved in the project?
   (d) Who is in charge of the project, a professional or a generalist?
   (e) Can he communicate efficiently and effectively with parties concerned, both within and outside the Government? Does he have the necessary technical capability and authority to do so?
   (f) How have you organized your Y2K work? (e.g. setting up a steering committee to oversee the progress of the exercise and to take follow-up actions as appropriate). Have you documented the related work plans and decisions?

3. Progress of Y2K rectification exercise

(a) When did the Bureau/department start to take up the Y2K-compliance exercise? What is the target timetable/schedule for completion of the project? Do you have a priority programme for different mission-critical computer and embedded systems? If so, please provide details? If not, why not?

(b) What percentage of the work of repairing or replacing mission-critical computer and embedded systems have you completed? Please provide details.

(c) Have you developed a Y2K supplier/customer chain management strategy?
   ● Do other business partners/suppliers of your Bureau have Y2K- compliant plans in place? Will you interact with them or other clients through Internet or other remote systems?
   ● Please provide information on interface and data exchange issues.

(d) How are you going to test the reliability of the various mission-critical computer and embedded systems under your policy portfolio in an integrated manner to ensure that they are all Y2K-compliant?

(e) What is your Bureau's involvement in the Y2K rectification exercise undertaken by related NGOs?

(f) How can you ensure that NGOs will achieve Y2K-compliance within your schedule? How are you going to follow-up on the progress and slippage of the Y2K project as reported by NGOs?

4. Contingency plan

(a) Have you designed, tested, and put in place plans for internal and external contingencies?
   ● What are the objectives of the contingency plans?
   ● What are the criteria for invoking the contingency plans?
   ● What are the expected duration of the contingency plans?
   ● What are the procedures for invoking contingency mode?
   ● What are the resource plan for operating in contingency mode?
   ● How are you going to test the effectiveness of the contingency plans?
   ● Will you involve different NGOs in the exercise, both at the testing and implementation stages? If not, why not?
   ● What are the details of the related publicity programme?

Questions put to NGOs

1. Extent of the Y2K problem

   (a) Which are the mission-critical computer and embedded systems?
   (b) Has your organization conducted a Y2K awareness campaign?
   (c) Has your organization defined and documented the potential impact of the Y2K problem?
   (d) What are the potential risks of the Y2K computer failures to our daily lives/transactions?

2. Resources to tackle the problem

   (a) What are the resources (in terms of funds and manpower) in your organization devoted to the Y2K problem? What is the involvement of top management
   (b) Are you using internal or external resources?
   (c) Are "business" as well as "information technology" staff involved in the project?
   (d) Who is in charge of the project, a professional or a generalist?
   (e) Can he communicate efficiently and effectively with parties concerned, both within and outside the organization? Does he have the necessary technical capability and authority to do so?
   (f) How have you organized your Y2K work? (e.g. setting up of a steering committee to oversee the progress of the exercise and to take follow-up actions as appropriate). Have you documented the related work plans and decisions?

3. Progress of Y2K rectification exercise

   (a) When did your organization start to take up the Y2K-compliance exercise? What is the target timetable/schedule for completion of the project? Do you have a priority programme for different mission-critical computer and embedded systems? If so, please provide details? If not, why not?
   (b) What percentage of the work of repairing or replacing mission-critical computer and embedded systems have you completed? Please provide details.

(c) Has your organization developed a Y2K supplier/customer chain management strategy?

- Do other business partners/suppliers of your organization have Y2K-compliant plans in place? Will you interact with your customers through Internet or other remote systems?
- Please provide information on interface and data exchange issues.

(d) Does your organization have comprehensive testing strategies for both internal and external systems?

- What are your plans for testing?
- Do you have a documented plan?

4. Contingency plan

(a) Have you designed, tested, and put in place plans for internal and external contingencies?

- What are the objectives of the contingency plans?
- What are the criteria for invoking the contingency plans and who are responsible for activating and overseeing the contingency plans?
- What are the expected duration of the contingency plans?
- How are you going to test the effectiveness of the contingency plans?
- How is your organization accountable to the respective Government Bureau for formulation and implementation of the contingency plans?
- Will your organization launch a publicity programme to keep the public informed of the latest development of the Y2K-compliance exercise within your organization and the related contingency plan?

Legislative Council Secretariat

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