

新邨西醫協會的信頭  
Letterhead of ESTATE DOCTORS ASSOCIATION LTD.

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24th June, 1999

By fax

Ms. Doris Chan  
Clerk to Panel  
LegCo Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Ms. Chan.

**Submission of Estate Doctors Association to be presented in the Legislative Council's Health Panel meeting on 28th June, 1999**

**1. Improve cost-effectiveness of health care service**

We support privatization of out patient clinics if proved to be more cost-effective. After all, patients can have more choice of doctors.

**2. Regulation of medical-professionals**

- 2.1 The Medical Council should be the only disciplinary body in the profession. There are always areas of improvement of the Medical Council, such as, increase transparency, easier complaint mechanism, or more lay persons in the Council, say an addition of 2.
- 2.2 We have much reservation of setting up of another Ombudsman office as this would create more confrontation and disharmony between doctors and patients; and at the same time, in order to protect themselves, the doctors would advise patients to undergo more investigations as in the United States and this would lead to unnecessary increase in the total Health Care Expenditure.

**3. Coordination between different health care structures**

- 3.1 We support the existing dual system of public and private health care services in Hong Kong. We cannot foresee complete integration of the two systems feasible and beneficial. The Government should ensure an equilibrium of public and private health care services. The private health care services have their merits and their survival and competitiveness should be ensured.

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- 3.2 We support means of integration of private and public medical services to achieve continuous care and to contain or decrease public health budget.
- 3.3 While hospital-based services should be provided mainly by the public sector, primary and secondary health care services should be mainly by the private sector.
- 3.4 The idea of **Patient Held Record** which contains essential medical information should be encouraged and promulgated so that continuous health care can be achieved.
- 3.5 In order to decrease public health care budget, the **sharing** of patients can be considered in two categories: those suffering from acute medical problems and those suffering from chronic illnesses.
- (a) For patients with acute medical problems, the idea of setting up privately run medical offices next to Accident & Emergency Departments of major hospitals to serve the population of Hong Kong during odd hours, say 9:00 pm - 12:00 am, can be explored.
- (b) For patients with chronic medical problems like Asthma, Diabetes Mellitus, there should be ways of referring them from the Hospital Authority back to their family doctors for continuous care and in doing such, saves public health expenses, Such idea of Shared Care has been worked out and implemented in certain hospitals. A big difference between the charges by the two sectors and mistrust between two sectors of health care providers are the two main barriers that would take time to solve.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ho Ock Ling  
Hon. Secretary  
Estate Doctors Association