

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

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

Following a briefing given by Professor William HSIAO and Professor Winnie YIP of the Harvard Team on the report entitled "Improving Hong Kong's Health Care System: Why and For Whom" at the meeting on 12 April 1999, a series of meetings were held on the following dates to discuss the Report: 14 June (the last agenda item), 28 June, 12 July, 20 July 1999. The last meeting for discussion of the Report is scheduled for 9 August 1999.

2. 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.

3. 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.

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

The relevant death inquiry was completed in May 1999. However, as there might be civil litigation in respect of the case, the Administration advises to discuss this item later.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Dental policy and review of oral health goals

The subject was last discussed at the meeting on 21 May 1999. The Administration was asked to report its deliberations on the way forward in July 1999. It was also requested to address the over-supply of dental manpower.

9. Undesirable medical advertisements

Having regard to the fact that 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.

10. 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

11. 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.