

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

香 港



大 學

Legislative Council Panel on Health Services
Discussion on Private Patient Services at Public Hospitals and Fee-sharing Arrangements
 April 2, 2007 (Monday)

Background Information on
The University of Hong Kong's Income from Providing Services to Private Patients

The University of Hong Kong has noticed recent comments which made an inadequate comparison on the number of attendances and income from private out-patient and in-patient services provided by medical faculties of the two universities. We would therefore like to provide some information for Panel Members' reference:

Private out-patient service

- (1) In response to the statistics provided in the written reply to Legislative Council Member's question for the full meeting on March 28, 2007, there is a comment saying that the average income from out-patient services for HKU is lower than that of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Such a comment is made taking the example of 2005-06, where the number of private attendances for HKU's and CUHK's out-patient services were 13,934 and 2,672 respectively, while the corresponding income for HKU was only \$9.8 million, compared to CUHK's \$27.2 million.

We must point out that CUHK's income as mentioned in such a comment also includes those income generated from 12,172 attendances at non-Hospital Authority hospitals. This income does not need to be split according to the agreement between the Hospital Authority and the two universities. CUHK's income also includes some income generated from in-patient services. Therefore these comments cannot give an accurate comparison between private out-patient service incomes of the two medical schools.

- (2) On the other hand, for services provided to private patients by HKU, incomes from CT-scan, X-ray diagnosis, blood test, other laboratory tests, etc, belong to the Hospital Authority, and are therefore not included in the HKU income mentioned above. CUHK has different accounting arrangements on these incomes.
- (3) The prescribed ranges of charges for private out-patient services were published in the Gazette. In 2005-06, the average charge for The University of Hong Kong's out-patient service is \$1,083 per attendance, which reasonably falls between the gazette range.

Income from operations

- (4) There is a comment saying that given the number of operations conducted by The University of Hong Kong, the income generated is relatively low. However, operations are charged according to their scope, including minor, intermediate, major and ultra-major operations. Taking 2005-06 as an example, there are no significant differences in operation charges between HKU and CUHK. The charges also fall within the gazette range.

Types of operation	HKU 2005-06	CUHK 2005-06	Gazette range
Minor operations	\$8,290	\$7,317	\$3,900 - \$12,300
Intermediate operations	\$18,881	\$20,338	\$12,300 - \$24,000
Major operations	\$33,559	\$40,277	\$24,000 - \$45,900
Ultra-major operations	\$79,375	\$64,285	\$45,900 - \$300,000

Allocation of income

- (5) According to the agreement made between the University and the HA, HA will normally collect the total income received from Faculty clinical staff's outside clinical practices, then deduct at least 25% of the income before allocating the remaining amount to the University.
- (6) The income will be used to support the Faculty and its departments' expenses for academic research and other professional development purposes.

The University of Hong Kong
March 30, 2007