



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局

Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

The People's Republic of China

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Ms Elyssa WONG  
Clerk to Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road, Central

Dear Ms WONG,

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services**  
**Healthcare Service Reform – Primary Care Development Strategy**

At the meeting of the LegCo Panel on Health Services held on 12 July 2010, Members, in the context of discussing the Government's primary care development strategy, requested the Administration to provide a breakdown of the funding allocated or earmarked for various initiatives to enhance primary care; and information on how primary care pilot projects would be evaluated.

**Funding Allocated or Earmarked for Primary Care**

We have advised in the paper submitted to the Panel in July (paragraph 8 of LC Paper No. CB(2)1995/09-10(01)) that some \$2.9 billion has been earmarked for the period 2009-10 to 2012-13 to implement various initiatives in line with primary care development strategy, including a series of pilot projects to enhance support for chronic disease patients in the primary care setting, the Elderly Health Care Voucher Pilot Scheme, various vaccination subsidy schemes, establishment of community health centres or networks, enhancement of primary dental services and oral health promotion, etc. Implementation of many of these initiatives involves partnership between the public and private sectors or public-private partnership (PPP).

Taking into account new or existing funding for a number of additional initiatives relating to enhancement and development of primary care, including the



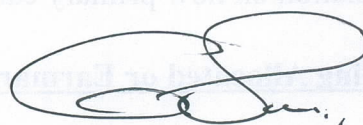
various vaccination schemes and enhancement of mental health services in the primary care setting, the total amount of additional funding allocated or earmarked for enhancement and development of primary care as a whole and promotion of PPP in healthcare from 2007-08 to 2013-14 stands at about \$4.1 billion<sup>1</sup>. A breakdown of the \$4.1 billion funding allocated or earmarked for various primary care and PPP related initiatives are set out at *Appendix*.

### **Evaluation of Primary Care Pilot Projects**

Development of primary care in Hong Kong is an on-going and evolving process. We have adopted a step-by-step and consensus-building approach to reforming the primary care system so that a virtuous cycle of pilot-evaluation-adjustment could be established for the continuous development and implementation of primary care initiatives. The newly established Primary Care Office under the Department of Health will be responsible for supporting and co-ordinating the development of primary care in Hong Kong, including the overall monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the primary care development strategy.

As part of the implementation of the primary care development strategy, individual pilot projects to enhance primary care will all be required to be subject to evaluation based on objective criteria with, where appropriate and necessary, independent and third-party assessment through partnership with academic institutions for instance. In particular, for pilot projects being implemented through the Hospital Authority to strengthen support for chronic disease patients in the primary care setting, the medical schools of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong have been engaged as independent assessors to review and evaluate them against set service targets and performance indicators.

Yours sincerely,



(Chris SUN)

for Secretary for Food and Health

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<sup>1</sup> As stated in paragraph 3.7 of the Primary Care Development Strategy Document ([http://www.fhb.gov.hk/download/press\\_and\\_publications/otherinfo/101231\\_primary\\_care/e\\_strategy\\_doc.pdf](http://www.fhb.gov.hk/download/press_and_publications/otherinfo/101231_primary_care/e_strategy_doc.pdf)) and paragraph 2.23 of the Healthcare Reform Second Stage Consultation Document ([http://www.myhealthmychoice.gov.hk/pdf/consultation\\_full\\_eng.pdf](http://www.myhealthmychoice.gov.hk/pdf/consultation_full_eng.pdf)).



**Appendix**

**Funding Allocated or Earmarked for Primary Care from 2007-08 to 2013-14  
(as at December 2010)**

<b>Initiatives</b>	<b>Amount of funding (\$ million)</b>
Implementing various vaccination schemes, including the Elderly Vaccination Subsidy Scheme which provides subsidy for elders aged 65 years or above to receive subsidised seasonal influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations, the Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme which provides subsidy for children aged 6 months to 6 years to receive seasonal influenza vaccinations from private doctors, and the Human Swine Influenza Vaccination Programme.	1,600
Implementing various primary care pilot projects to enhance chronic disease management in the primary care setting through the Hospital Authority (HA), including the Multi-disciplinary Risk Factor Assessment and Management Programme (RAMP), the Patient Empowerment Programme (PEP), Nurse and Allied Health Clinics (NAHC), the Public-Private Chronic Disease Management Shared Care Programme ("Shared Care Programme") and the Tin Shui Wai Primary Care Partnership Project (TSWPPP).	620
Implementing the three-year Elderly Health Care Voucher Pilot Scheme from 2009 to 2011 which provides partial subsidies to enable the elderly to choose within their local communities private primary care services that best suit their needs and to pilot a new model for subsidising primary care services.	535
Implementing pilot projects to establish community health centres (CHCs) and networks with different service models through possible collaboration between the public sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector to foster the provision of primary care services that are comprehensive, co-ordinated and person-centred. The first purpose-built CHC will be established in north of Tin Shui Wai in collaboration with NGOs and possibly the private sector in the first half of 2012.	500
Enhancing training for healthcare professionals including family medicine training and maintaining an adequate healthcare workforce including nurses for primary and community care.	250

Initiatives	Amount of funding (\$ million)
Strengthening mental health services in the primary care setting, including setting up Common Mental Disorder Clinics to provide patients with common mental disorders with more timely assessment and consultation services and piloting an Integrated Mental Health Programme through HA.	190
Enhancing primary dental care and promoting oral health especially for the elderly population through providing subvention to selected NGOs under a three-year Pilot Project on Outreach Primary Dental Care Services for the Elderly in Residential Care Homes and Day Care Centres.	76
Implementing other initiatives relating to enhancement and development of primary care and promotion of PPP including enhancing smoking cessation services, developing a strategy for prevention of non-communicable diseases, and other PPP pilot initiatives, etc.	230
Setting up a Primary Care Office under the Department of Health (DH) to support and co-ordinate the development of primary care in Hong Kong, implement the primary care development strategies and actions, and co-ordinate actions among DH, HA, the private healthcare sector, NGOs and other healthcare providers.	50
<b>Total amount of additional funding allocated or earmarked for primary care from 2007-08 to 2013-14</b>	<b>4,053 <sup>2</sup></b>

Food and Health Bureau  
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<sup>2</sup> The individual amounts do not add up to the total due to rounding.