

Panel on Health Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 11 March 2011)

- | | Proposed timing
for discussion |
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| <p>1. Issues relating to the wastage of doctors in the Hospital Authority</p> <p>Item proposed by Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou on 23 February 2011. The proposal was detailed in Dr PAN's letter which was circulated vide LC Paper No. CB(2)1165/10-11.</p> | April 2011 |
| <p>2. Creation of new directorate posts in the Department of Health</p> <p>To strengthen the Department of Health's regulatory role in enhancing drug safety, the Pharmaceutical Service will be expanded into a dedicated drug office, as recommended by the Review Committee on Regulation of Pharmaceutical Products in Hong Kong. Creation of new directorate posts will be required.</p> | April 2011 |
| <p>3. Progress of hospital accreditation in public hospitals</p> <p>To report on the progress of hospital accreditation in public hospitals managed by the Hospital Authority.</p> | April 2011 |
| <p>4. Improvement of doctors' working hour in public hospitals</p> <p>The Panel discussed with the Administration on the Final Report on Doctor Work Reform on 12 April 2010. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the progress of improving doctors' working hour in six to 12 months' time.</p> | 2 nd quarter, 2011 |

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

5. Implementation of the Public-Private Chronic Disease Management Shared Care Programme

2nd quarter, 2011

The Panel was briefed on the three-year pilot Programme at the meeting on 8 March 2010. The Administration advised that the Hospital Authority ("HA") planned to send invitation letters to eligible patients in batches and arrange briefing sessions to introduce the Programme details starting from 2nd quarter, 2010. The Administration agreed to revert to the Panel on the progress of the Programme one year after implementation.

6. Drug Formulary of HA

2nd quarter, 2011

At the meeting on 12 February 2007, the Administration was requested to report to the Panel when HA Board had come to a view on the mode of supply of self-financed item drugs before implementation. The Administration was also requested to review the assessment criteria for introducing new drugs into HA Drug Formulary and for assistance under the Samaritan Fund.

When the grant for the Samaritan Fund was discussed at the Panel meeting on 10 November 2008, members raised concern about the assessment criteria and the operation of the Drug Formulary and the Samaritan Fund. Members considered it necessary to advance the discussion on the matter at a forthcoming Panel meeting.

At the meeting on 8 June 2009, the Administration briefed members on the latest developments of the HA Drug Formulary.

When the policy on the use of drugs in public hospitals under HA in immediate life threatening emergency situations was discussed at the Panel's special meeting on 19 June 2009, Hon Andrew CHENG and Hon Albert CHAN proposed to discuss the implementation of the HA Drug Formulary at a future meeting, and deputations should be invited to

give views on the subject.

At the meeting on 15 October 2010, members agreed that the subject should be discussed by the Panel at a future meeting.

The Administration briefed members on the latest developments of the HA Drug Formulary at the Panel meeting on 14 February 2011. The subjects of "Oral chemotherapeutic drugs for cancer patients in public hospitals" and "Iron chelating therapy for Thalassaemia patients in public hospitals" were also discussed in the context of the drug formulary. The Administration was requested to provide a written response to the views and suggestions raised by members at the meeting, preferably within two months. Members agreed to hold a special meeting to receive views from deputations on the subject after receiving the Administration's written response.

7. Electronic health record sharing

2nd quarter, 2011

Item proposed by the Administration in the 2009-2010 legislative session.

At the meeting on 9 March 2009, the Administration briefed the Panel on the proposal to develop a territory-wide patient-oriented electronic health record ("eHR") sharing system. At the special meeting of the Panel on 19 June 2009, the Panel received the views of deputations on the proposal.

The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved the funding proposals for the directorate staffing support for the Electronic Health Record Office ("eHR Office") and the implementation of the first stage of the territory-wide eHR Programme on 10 July 2009. On the legal framework and the implementation plan for the eHR sharing system, the Administration advised that it would commence the formulation of the necessary long-term legal framework after obtaining the funding approval, and would provide an interim report to the Panel on Health

Services in due course.

The eHR Office was set up in July 2009 to take forward the Programme. At the special meeting of the Panel on 16 October 2009, the Administration advised that it would consult the relevant professions, stakeholders and the public in 2010 on issues such as voluntary participation, authorisation and consent for record access and the long-term legal framework required for the protection of privacy and security of personal health data, and prepare for the drafting of the necessary legislation.

8. Second Stage Public Consultation on Healthcare Reform - Health Protection Scheme

2nd/3rd quarter, 2011

The Panel was briefed on 6 October 2010 on the proposed Health Protection Scheme set out in the Healthcare Reform Second Stage Consultation Document entitled "My Health My Choice" issued by the Administration on the same day for public consultation till 7 January 2011.

The Panel received public views on the proposed Health Protection Scheme on 11 December 2010 and further discussed the subject with the Administration on 13 December 2010. On 13 December 2010, the Administration advised that it planned to revert to the Panel on the outcome of the consultation within the 2010-2011 legislative session.

9. Mandatory registration of proprietary Chinese medicines

2nd/3rd quarter, 2011

The Administration consulted the Panel on 12 July 2010 of its plan to commence in phases from December 2010 the provisions in the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549) and the Chinese Medicines Regulation (Cap. 549F) related to the mandatory registration of proprietary Chinese medicines ("pCm") and the requirements of label and package inserts.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

At the meeting, members agreed that where necessary, the Panel could decide in the new legislative session whether a special meeting should be convened to re-visit the matter and receive views from the trade.

The Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Commencement) Notice 2010, the Chinese Medicine (Fees) Regulation (Commencement) Notice 2010 and the Chinese Medicines Regulation (Commencement) Notice 2010 were gazetted on 8 October 2010 and tabled before the Council on 13 October 2010. By these Commencement Notices, the Secretary for Food and Health appoints 3 December 2010 and 1 December 2011 as the day on which the offences relating to the sale, import and possession of pCm through registration and the requirements of label and package inserts will come into effect respectively. The 28-day negative vetting period was expired on 10 November 2010 and no resolution has been passed by the Legislative Council to amend the Commencement Notice or to extend the vetting period.

On the instruction of Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun and Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung who met with representatives of 中國新醫學醫療中心有限公司 and 國際中醫中藥總會有限公司 on 26 November 2010 to receive views concerning the commencement of the relevant provisions in Cap. 549 and Cap. 549F, the Complaints Division referred the concerns raised by the organizations to the Panel for follow-up.

At the meeting on 13 December 2010, members agreed to receive public views on the subject. Two special meetings were held on 17 January 2011 and 15 February 2011 for the purpose.

At the meeting on 14 February 2011, the Panel decided to appoint a subcommittee to study issues relating to the registration of pCm. Noting that more than eight subcommittees on policy issues were already in operation and the subcommittee

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would be put on the waiting list, members agreed that the Panel would follow up on the subject pending the activation of the subcommittee.

The Panel will discuss the proposed terms of reference and work plan of the subcommittee at the meeting on 14 March 2011, and then seek the agreement of the House Committee to activate the subcommittee.

10. Proposed regulatory framework of medical devices

To be confirmed

The Panel was briefed on the proposed regulatory framework for medical devices at the meeting on 8 November 2010. The Administration advised that in response to the recommendation of the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee, it would conduct a business impact assessment at the detailed design stage. The Administration planned to report to the Panel on the outcome of the business impact assessment together with the details of the legislative proposal in 2011.

At the meeting, Dr Hon Joseph LEE and Hon Vincent FANG proposed that the trade and industry should be invited to give views on the subject.

11. Shortage of nurses

(see Note)

At the meeting on 8 March 2010, Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che suggested that the subject should be discussed by the Panel within the current legislative session.

Note: The Administration has advised that an information paper on the subject will be provided to the Panel in due course.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

12. Redeployment of directorate posts in the Department of Health

To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration in the 2008-2009 legislative session.

The Administration has advised that the discussion of the item was deferred due to the unavailability of time slot. Item was then planned to be incorporated in a composite proposal on creation of directorate posts for discussion on 12 April 2010. In the light of a letter dated 26 March 2010 from the Government Doctors' Association ("GDA") to the Director of Health, copied to Panel members, the item was withdrawn, pending further consultation with GDA.

13. Pilot project on outreach primary dental care services for elderly in residential care homes and day care centres

To be confirmed

The Panel was briefed on the pilot project at the meeting on 10 January 2011. The Administration advised that it planned to launch the pilot project for a period of three years, tentatively from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014.

The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel one year after the launch of the pilot project on a review of its effectiveness.

Note : The Administration has advised that it would revert to the Panel after completion of the interim review on the pilot project.

14. Issues related to health services under the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 12 July 2010, members agreed to defer the discussion of the item to a future meeting in view of the time constraint.

**Proposed timing
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15. Regulation of "Health Maintenance Organisations"

To be confirmed

The issue was last discussed by the Panel at the meeting on 11 June 2007. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the time frame for establishing a statutory licensing regime to regulate health maintenance organisations, in view of the lack of adequacy of the Medical Director concept to safeguard patients' welfare.

16. Referral from Duty Roster Member regarding the provision of medical services for children in poverty

To be confirmed

On 16 April 2010, Duty Roster Members of the Legislative Council met with representatives of the Hong Kong Society for Community Organization to receive views on the provision of medical services for children in poverty. Duty Roster Members agreed that the issue be referred to the Panel for follow-up.

17. Referral from Legislative Council Members' meeting with the Eastern District Council members regarding the shortage of healthcare practitioners in public hospitals

To be confirmed

At the meeting between the Legislative Council Members and the Eastern District Council members on 9 December 2010, Eastern District Council members expressed concern about the shortage of healthcare practitioners in public hospitals. They suggested that HA should improve the remuneration of the healthcare practitioners in public hospitals and reduce their workload, work hours and work pressure in order to retain staff. They also urged HA to increase the number of psychiatric healthcare staff and medical social workers. Legislative Council Members attending the meeting agreed that the issue be referred to the Panel for follow-up.