



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

Our ref.: FH/H/33/99
Your ref.:

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15 November 2010

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

Dear Ms Wong,

**Proposal to discuss incorporation of oral chemotherapy drugs into the
Drug Formulary as subsidised drugs**

At the meeting of the Panel on Health Services held on 8 November 2010, Members proposed that the Panel discuss the captioned at its meeting to be held in December this year. Our reply is set out below.

The Hospital Authority (HA) has put in place an established mechanism for the evaluation of new drugs and review of the prevailing list of drugs in the Drug Formulary (the Formulary) on a regular basis through its expert committees which comprise doctors, clinical pharmacologists and pharmacists. Changes to the Formulary will be made as appropriate. The Drug Utilisation Review Committee (DURC) of HA conducts periodic review on the prevailing Formulary as to the classification of drugs and guidelines of drug treatment, while the Drug Advisory Committee (DAC) appraises new drugs on a regular basis and consider the introduction of new drugs into the Formulary. In the evaluation and review process, the two committees take into account a number of considerations including scientific evidence, cost-effectiveness, technological advances in the treatment options concerned,

actual experience in the use of the drugs as well as the views of professionals and patient groups, etc. This is to ensure that public resources are used in an equitable and effective manner for provision of appropriate treatment to patients. The two committees convene their meetings at an interval of every several months.

HA has maintained liaison and communication with patient groups and listened to patients' views and demands regarding the Formulary through various channels. Apart from annual consultation meetings with patient groups, HA has from time to time received demands and suggestions raised by patient groups regarding the Formulary and has duly considered their suggestions. The review of the Formulary and evaluation of new drugs is an on-going process. HA will continue to conduct periodic review in accordance with the established mechanism.

HA has planned to incorporate more new drugs with proven efficacy into the Formulary next year. We will update the Panel on Health Services on the latest developments of the Formulary in the first quarter of next year. As regards the proposal raised by Members concerning oral chemotherapy drugs, the relevant expert committees of HA will evaluate and consider each individual drug in accordance with the established mechanism.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Gloria LO)

for Secretary for Food and Health

c.c. Hospital Authority (Attn.: Dr W L CHEUNG)