

Panel on Health Services

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
on Health Protection Scheme at the meeting on 13 February 2012**

At the meeting on 13 February 2012, the Administration was requested to provide -

- (a) the composition, membership, workplan (including the frequency of meeting, the meeting schedule and issues of study) and terms of reference of the Working Group and the Consultative Group on Health Protection Scheme set up under the Health and Medical Development Advisory Committee, as well as the Steering Committee on Strategic Review on Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development and its Coordinating Committee and the six consultative sub-groups;
- (b) information on whether the Administration will review the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance (Cap. 165), and if so, the scope of and the concrete timetable for the review;
- (c) in respect of the 12 existing private hospitals -
 - (i) the current site area and gross floor area of each private hospital with breakdown by clinical use, relevant use for non-clinical activities (such as quarters) and non-clinical use;
 - (ii) the number of beds provided by each private hospital with percentage of beds used for obstetric services; and
 - (iii) the number of inpatient discharges of each private hospital over the past five years with breakdown by their resident status (i.e. whether they are Hong Kong residents) and the clinical specialties;
- (d) in respect of the 10 private hospitals which are charitable institutions and are exempt from tax under the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) -
 - (i) information on how the Inland Revenue Department ("IRD") can ensure that the profits derived from their business are only used for attainment of their stated objects and are not being distributed to their members; and
 - (ii) information on the actions to be taken by IRD regarding the alleged practice of some tax-exempt private hospitals to make use of the profits derived from their business to pay bonuses to their staff members or procure services/equipments from entities related to the members;

- (e) in respect of the four sites at Wong Chuk Hang, Tseung Kwan O, Tai Po and Lantau respectively reserved for private hospital development -
 - (i) their respective site area;
 - (ii) the initial thoughts of the Administration on the requirements to be imposed on the new private hospitals in respect of the service scope, the bed capacity and the limit on the percentage of beds used for obstetrics services;
 - (iii) whether the Administration will limit the percentage of beds or bed days for use by non-local residents, and if so, the measures to be put in place to ensure compliance; and
 - (iv) whether the lease conditions will provide flexibility whereby the Government will have the right to change the special requirements for development stated therein (such as the limits on the percentage of beds used for a particular type of service and the percentage of beds or bed days for use by non-local residents) as and when necessary;

- (f) in respect of the Health Protection Scheme ("HPS") -
 - (i) the estimated medical inflation rate to be brought about by the growth in service demand and rise in medical cost in the private healthcare sector due to the implementation of HPS;
 - (ii) given the high fixed cost for the provision of public healthcare services, information to explain, with supporting statistics, how the implementation of HPS, which would facilitate the development of the healthcare services industry, could relieve burden on public healthcare system and reduce public health expenditure; and
 - (iii) the measures to be put in place to retain talents in the public healthcare sector so that the increase in demand for healthcare services and in turn manpower in the private sector induced by the implementation of HPS would not lead to brain-drain from the public sector and affect the quality of public healthcare services.