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**Date:** Friday, March 08, 2019 01:49PM  
**Subject:** Review of Health Care Vouchers scheme

History: ↻ This message has been forwarded.

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Dear Dr Chan, Dr Chui, Miss Tse,

I read from media reports that the health care vouchers scheme is currently under review. The scheme has obviously been abused; it seems over the top that more than \$7 billion has been spent on prescription eyeglasses, amounting to more than \$1m earning per part II registered optometrist. To ensure the highest possible eradication of any abuse, it may be necessary to restrict the vouchers to be used for payment for consultation fees only, ie not payment for any medicine (including traditional Chinese medicine) or appliance (including eye glasses).

But this will be a radical change and there will be strong reaction to it.

The FS has recently allowed the vouchers to accumulate up to \$8000 in value. This doubles the old limit of \$4000. Here lies an opportunity to widen usage of the vouchers.

I suggest that vouchers be allowed to be used for payment for health insurance premium. The idea is for health insurance to pay for private sector medical/health expenses when necessary. This then meets the original intention of the scheme which is to encourage elder patients to use private sector rather than public sector medical/health facilities.

Would you consider this please? I recommend it.

Anthony Woo