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**Panel on Welfare Services and Panel on Health Services**

**Joint Subcommittee on Long-term Care Policy**

**Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat  
for the meeting on 1 June 2020**

**Provision of health care vouchers for persons with disabilities**

The Panel on Welfare Services and the Panel on Health Services have not discussed specifically the provision of health care vouchers for persons with disabilities. However, in the context of discussing the review of Disability Allowance ("DA")<sup>1</sup> and the system for processing relevant applications at the special meeting of the Panel on Welfare Services on 4 May 2017, some deputations requested the Administration to provide health care vouchers for persons with disabilities.

2. According to the Administration's written responses to the views of deputations, the public healthcare services in Hong Kong are heavily subsidized by the Government and the fees are affordable by the general public. Moreover, the Hospital Authority has put in place a mechanism of medical fee waivers to provide assistance for needy patients. Patients receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance ("CSSA") may be exempted from payment of fees for public healthcare services (including fees for standard drugs in the Drug Formulary) upon production of a valid medical fee waiver issued to CSSA recipients by the Social Welfare Department. Other persons who cannot afford fees for public healthcare services may apply for a medical fee waiver depending on their needs. Taking into account the need to ensure efficient use of resources, the Administration has no plan to provide health care vouchers for DA recipients.

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<sup>1</sup> Disability Allowance is a non-contributory and non-means-tested cash allowance. Its objective is to assist severely disabled persons (who as a result need substantial help from others to cope with daily life) in meeting special needs arising from their disabling conditions.

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