

Panel on Health Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 16 January 2023)

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>1. Primary Healthcare Blueprint</p> <p>The Government released the Primary Healthcare Blueprint on 19 December 2022 to formulate the direction of development and strategies for strengthening Hong Kong's primary healthcare system to address the challenges brought about by an ageing population and the increasing prevalence of chronic disease, with a view to shifting the focus of the present healthcare system from curative treatment to disease prevention, changing its emphasis and people's mindset from treatment-oriented to prevention-focused.</p>	February 2023
<p>2. Healthcare Manpower Projection 2023</p> <p>This proposed item aims to brief members on the work of Healthcare Manpower Projection 2023.</p>	February 2023
<p>3. Development of Chinese medicine</p> <p>At the meeting of the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Development of Chinese Medicine on 3 July 2020, the Administration was requested to update the Panel on the implementation of the Chinese Medicine Development Fund on a regular basis.</p> <p>At the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022, Hon Kingsley WONG Kwok and Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen proposed discussion of future development of Chinese medicine industry as well as direction of development of collaboration between Chinese and Western medicine respectively.</p> <p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the various policy initiatives relating to the development of</p>	February 2023

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Chinese medicine set out in the Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address, and consult members on the staffing proposal regarding the proposed creation of the post of the Commissioner for Chinese Medicine Development.	
4. Update on tobacco control measures	March 2023
The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the progress of tobacco control measures with a view to achieving a smoking prevalence of 7.8% by 2025 as promulgated under "Towards 2025: Strategy and Action Plan to Prevent and Control Non-communicable Diseases in Hong Kong".	
5. Proposed amendments to the Nurses Registration Ordinance (Cap. 164)	March 2023
The proposed item aims to brief members on the Administration's legislative proposals which serve to (a) provide new pathways for admission of qualified non-locally trained nurses; and (b) make continuing nursing education and completion of the Health Manpower Survey administered by the Department of Health mandatory requirements for renewal of practising certificates for registered nurses and enrolled nurses.	
6. Three projects under the First Ten-year Hospital Development Plan	March 2023 (tentative)
The Administration plans to invite members' comments on the following three projects under the First Ten-year Hospital Development Plan:	
(a) main works for the expansion of North District Hospital;	
(b) main works for the expansion of Lai King Building in Princess Margaret Hospital; and	

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(c) main works for the redevelopment of Kwong Wah Hospital, phase 2.	
7. Specialist services, non-emergency services and examinations provided by the Hospital Authority	1 st quarter of 2023
In the 2018-2019 and 2020-2021 legislative sessions, some members proposed discussion of specialist services provided by the Hospital Authority (“HA”) as well as measures to shorten the waiting time for specialist outpatient services, non-emergency services and examinations provided by HA.	
8. End-of-life care: Legislative proposals on advance directives and dying in place	1 st quarter of 2023
At the meeting on 8 November 2019, the Panel was briefed on the public consultation on the subject being conducted for the period from 6 September to 16 December 2019. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the results of the public consultation when available.	
The Administration provided an information paper on the outcome and way forward of the above public consultation exercise in July 2020. The Administration has advised in August 2022 (LC Paper No. CB(4)790/2022(02) that it plans to introduce a bill on advance directives and related matters in 2023.	
9. Enhancement of Healthcare Teaching Facilities of University Grants Committee-funded Universities	March / April 2023
The Administration plans to consult the Panel on Health Services and Panel on Education on three funding proposals for the enhancement of facilities cum medical campus development of the three University Grants Committee-funded universities, including (a) construction of a new academic building in the medical campus of The University of Hong Kong;	

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<p>(b) construction of a teaching-research complex in The Chinese University of Hong Kong; and (c) renovation of healthcare-related teaching facilities in The Hong Kong Polytechnic University before submission to the Public Works Subcommittee and Finance Committee.</p>	
<p>10. Proposed Amendments to the Dentists Registration Ordinance (Cap. 156)</p>	<p>2nd quarter of 2023</p>
<p>The proposed item aims to brief members on the Administration's legislative proposals which serve to:</p>	
<p>(a) provide new pathways for admission of qualified non-locally trained dentists;</p> <p>(b) modernize the regulatory framework for dentists and ancillary dental workers, including making certain changes to the composition and structure of the Dental Council of Hong Kong; and</p> <p>(c) make continuing professional development and completion of the Health Manpower Survey administered by the Department of Health mandatory requirements for registered dentists' renewal of their practising certificates.</p>	
<p>11. Review of fees and charges under the purview of the Department of Health</p>	<p>2nd quarter of 2023</p>
<p>Item proposed by the Administration. The Department of Health plans to review statutory fee items prescribed under Radiation (Control of Radioactive Substances) Regulations (Cap. 303A); Radiation (Control of Irradiating Apparatus) Regulations (Cap. 303B); Human Reproductive Technology (Fees) Regulation (Cap. 561B); and Prevention and Control of Disease Regulation (Cap. 599A) in the second quarter of 2023 and consult the Legislative Council on fee revision proposals.</p>	

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12.	Update on enhancement of Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the progress of enhancement of Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme in light of the initiatives mentioned in Policy Address 2022.	June / July 2023
13.	Redevelopment of Shek Kip Mei Health Centre The Administration proposes to demolish the Shek Kip Mei Health Centre and construct a Community Health Centre Building in Shek Kip Mei in situ, with a view to meeting the rising demand for medical services from the local residents in Sham Shui Po District.	4 th quarter of 2023
14.	Review of the Human Reproductive Technology Ordinance (Cap. 561) The item was referred to the Panel for follow-up by the Bills Committee on Human Reproductive Technology (Amendment) Bill 2015. During the scrutiny of the Bill, the Administration has advised that it would work with the Council on Human Reproductive Technology (“CHRT”) to look into the need to amend the Human Reproductive Technology Ordinance comprehensively having regard to the stakeholders’ feedback and the operating experience of CHRT. The Administration undertook to keep the Panel informed of the progress.	To be confirmed
15.	Provision of one-stop services for victims of sexual violence in and prevention of crime in psychiatric wards of public hospitals This subject was originally placed on the Panel’s list of outstanding list for discussion as two separate items (viz. (i) Provision of one-stop services for victims of sexual violence in public hospitals and (ii) Prevention of crime in psychiatric wards of the hospitals under HA.	To be confirmed

Subject

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

In November 2019, the two items were merged as suggested by the Administration.

16. Pilot Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions To be confirmed

The Panel held a special meeting to receive views from members of the public on the subject on 10 December 2018. The Administration advised at the meeting that the Accreditation Agent announced the accreditation results for the speech therapist and audiologist professions in April and November 2018 respectively, and expected to announce the accreditation results for dietitian and educational psychologist professions in phases by the first quarter of 2019. Separately, the accreditation process for the clinical psychologist profession has commenced. Upon completion of the accreditation, the Accreditation Agent will review the effectiveness of the Pilot Scheme and report to the Administration with recommended measures for improvement. The Administration would study how to formulate a statutory registration regime for relevant accredited professions based on the Pilot Scheme.

17. Implementation of the regulatory regime under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633) To be confirmed

The item was referred to the Panel for follow-up by Subcommittee on Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Specification of Date for Section 135(1)(a)) Notice and Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Specification of Date for Section 136(1)(a)) Notice.

In the course of scrutinizing the two Notices, the Administration has, in response to members' request, undertaken to brief the Panel on a yearly basis on the progress made towards the full implementation of the new regulatory regime under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance.

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<p>At the policy briefing on 21 October 2019, members were advised that the application period for licences for private hospitals started on 2 July 2019, and that for day procedure centres would commence on 2 January 2020. For clinics, applications for licences and requests for letters of exemption would commence in 2021 the earliest.</p>	
<p>18. Corporate governance and manpower situation of the Hospital Authority and the use of the additional funding earmarked in the 2019-2020 Budget for the Hospital Authority's work concerning its manpower, drug treatments and medical equipment</p>	To be confirmed
<p>This subject was originally placed on the Panel's list of outstanding list for discussion as two separate items (viz. (i) Corporate governance and manpower situation of HA and (ii) Progress report on the use of the additional funding earmarked in the 2019-2020 Budget for HA's work concerning its manpower, drug treatments and medical equipment). In November 2019, the two items were merged as suggested by the Administration.</p>	
<p>19. Effectiveness of the internal auditing mechanism of the Department of Health and Hospital Authority</p>	To be confirmed
<p>Hon CHAN Han-pan proposed vide his letter dated 17 March 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)727/19-20(01)) that the Panel should discuss the effectiveness of the internal auditing mechanism of the Department of Health and HA, and request submission of internal audit reports by the Department of Health and HA.</p>	
<p>Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan proposed vide her letter dated 2 November 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)161/20-21(03)) that the Panel should discuss the subject in the 2020-2021 legislative session.</p>	

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20. Provision of treatment and support for cancer patients and rare disease patients	To be confirmed
<p>Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan proposed vide her letter dated 2 November 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)161/20-21(03)) that the Panel should discuss the subject in the 2020-2021 legislative session.</p>	
<p>Hon Elizabeth QUAT requested the Panel to discuss “Strengthening support for rare disease patients and cancer patients” vide her letter dated 13 September 2022 (LC Paper No. CB(4)828/2022(01)).</p>	
21. Public-private Partnership Programme	To be confirmed
<p>Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan proposed vide her letter dated 2 November 2020 (LC Paper No. CB(2)161/20-21(03)) that the Panel should discuss in the 2020-2021 legislative session the enhancement of the Public-private Partnership Programme. She further suggested vide her letter dated 18 May 2021 (LC Paper No. CB(4)1010/20-21(01)) that the Panel Chairman should arrange for discussion of the subject as soon as possible. The Administration's response to the letter was issued to members on 2 July 2021 vide LC Paper No. CB(4)1191/20-21(01).</p>	
22. Handling of patients’ privacy by the Hospital Authority	To be confirmed
<p>Hon Alice MAK requested vide her letter dated 10 May 2021 (LC Paper No. CB(4)985/20-21(01)) the Panel to discuss HA’s handling of patients’ privacy.</p>	
23. Ophthalmology services	To be confirmed
<p>Item proposed by Hon YANG Wing-kit at the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022. Hon YANG Wing-kit raised concern about the prolonged waiting time for bookings for ophthalmology specialist services by the</p>	

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elderly, and requested that the Administration should review the effectiveness of providing ophthalmology specialist services.	
24. Comprehensive policy on digital health technologies and legal framework of telehealth services	To be confirmed
Item proposed by Hon Duncan CHIU, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun and Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen at the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022. Hon Duncan CHIU proposed discussion on the comprehensive policy on digital health technologies. Also, he and Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun proposed that a legal framework of telehealth services be formulated by the Administration. Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen requested discussion on the ways to improve the Electronic Health Record Sharing System (eHealth).	
25. Turning to private practice by the Hospital Authority's doctors after receiving specialist training	To be confirmed
Item proposed by Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee at the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022. She raised concern that some HA's doctors have turned to private practice after receiving specialist training in HA.	
26. Urban-rural healthcare system and general outpatient services in the evening and during weekend	To be confirmed
Item proposed by Hon LAM So-wai at the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022. She raised concern about the balance and development of urban-rural medical resources, and proposed discussion of the implementation of a government-led urban-rural healthcare system suitable to Hong Kong in the long run. She also proposed enhancement of general outpatient services in the evening and during weekend.	

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27. Professional conduct of healthcare personnel	To be confirmed
Item proposed by Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun at the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022.	
28. The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme	To be confirmed
Item proposed by Hon CHAN Hoi-yan on 7 February 2022. Hon CHAN Hoi-yan suggested discussion of issues related to vaccination, including mutual recognition of vaccination records between Hong Kong and the Mainland.	