

Panel on Health Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 16 February 2024)

| | Subject | Proposed timing for discussion |
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| 1. | The Interim Report of the Working Group on Oral Health and Dental Care The Government established the Working Group on Oral Health and Dental Care in December 2022 to conduct comprehensive review on the dental care services. The Working Group considered that focus should be put on enhancing the oral health of the community, and to promote preventive dental care services according to age groups and to provide targeted dental services to individual vulnerable groups. The Working Group has completed the Interim Report to announce the recommended policy direction and the future work of the Working Group. The Administration plans to update members on the latest development of the amendments to the Dentists Registration Ordinance (Cap. 156) at the same time under this item. | March 2024 |
| 2. | Proposed amendments to the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) for tax deduction scheme for assisted reproductive services The Administration proposes the amendment to the Inland Revenue Ordinance (Cap. 112) to take forward the tax deduction scheme for expenses on assisted reproductive service as announced in the 2023 Policy Address to be implemented in the year of assessment 2024-2025. | March 2024 |
| 3. | Update on the operation of CUHK Medical Centre On 24 February 2023, the Finance Committee (“FC”) of the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) approved the | March 2024 |

| Subject | Proposed timing for discussion |
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| <p>Government to grant CUHK Medical Centre (“CUHKMC”) the first 2-year extension of its original loan agreement, and, subject to review of CUHKMC’s financial situation by the Panel, to seek further approval from FC for the Government to grant CUHKMC the remainder 3-year extension.</p> <p>The Government intends to make the first annual report by updating members on the latest operation of the private hospital.</p> | |
| <p>4. Outcome of the public consultation on tobacco control strategies and the way forward</p> <p>The Administration proposes to report to the Panel outcome of the public consultation on tobacco control strategies and the way forward.</p> | April 2024 |
| <p>5. Proposed Amendments to the Declaration of Mental Hospital (Consolidation) Order (Cap. 136B)</p> <p>The Panel will be consulted on the proposed amendments to the mental hospitals declared in the Schedule to the Declaration of Mental Hospital (Consolidation) Order (Cap. 136B).</p> | April 2024 |
| <p>6. Direct cross-boundary ambulance service between Hong Kong and the Mainland and Macao</p> <p>The Administration is taking forward a direct cross-boundary ambulance service between Hong Kong and the Mainland and Macao, to enable point-to-point transfer of patients between hospitals.</p> <p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the latest progress of the service.</p> | April 2024 |
| <p>7. Implementation of the Hong Kong Genome Project</p> <p>The Hong Kong Genome Project is the first large-scale genome sequencing project in Hong Kong. In</p> | 2 nd quarter of 2024 |

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| <p>collaboration with the Department of Health (“DH”), the Hospital Authority (“HA”) and local universities, the Hong Kong Genome Institute has been recruiting eligible patients and their family members on a voluntary basis to look for potential disease-causing genetic variants through whole genome sequencing analysis since 2021.</p> <p>Having reported to the Panel in January 2019 and September 2021, the Government intends to brief members on the latest progress of the project.</p> | |
| <p>8. Progress of the Hospital Authority’s work in resuming the Hospital Accreditation Programme</p> | <p>2nd quarter of 2024</p> |
| <p>HA has resumed the Hospital Accreditation Programme by adopting the China’s International Hospital Accreditation Standards (2021 Version) at Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital and Prince of Wales Hospital in 2023-2024, with a view to ensuring that the management and service levels as well as the healthcare quality of hospitals are on par with international standards, enhancing the uniformity of hospital accreditation standards as well as the quality and safety of healthcare in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and aligning with the national healthcare system.</p> <p>The Administration proposes to brief the Panel on the latest progress of the HA’s work in resuming the Hospital Accreditation Programme.</p> | |
| <p>9. Healthcare manpower projection and local training of medical practitioners</p> | <p>2nd quarter of 2024</p> |
| <p>The Administration plans to report the results of the latest round of healthcare manpower projection.</p> <p>Hon Elizabeth QUAT proposed to discuss local training of medical practitioners on 16 January 2024. Ms QUAT hoped that the Administration would invite the two</p> | |

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for discussion**

medical schools to brief the Panel on the current situation of local training of medical practitioners.

In January 2024, the above two items were merged as suggested by the Administration.

10. Establishment of the Primary Healthcare Commission and primary healthcare development

2nd quarter of
2024

This subject covers the following items:

The Government plans to brief the Panel on the latest development of the establishment of the Primary Healthcare Commission and the way forward;

Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen suggested on 17 January 2023 to discuss provision of clinical pharmacist services for the public and residential care homes for the elderly to solve the problem of dispensing medicines in residential care homes;

Hon Maggie CHAN Man-ki requested the Panel to discuss the addition of screening services for breast cancer and for cervical cancer, as well as health care vouchers for gynaecology vide her letter dated 11 February 2022 (LC Paper No. CB(4)98/2022(01)) (Chinese version only). The Administration's response has been issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)142/2022(01);

Hon Elizabeth QUAT, Hon CHAN Han-pan and Hon Edward LEUNG Hei requested the Panel to discuss the subject on "Prevention of osteoporosis" vide their joint letter issued on 8 June 2022 (LC Paper No. CB(4)522/2022(01)) (Chinese version only). The Administration's response has been issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)608/2022(01); and

Hon Elizabeth QUAT further proposed discussion of this subject on 17 January 2023 and 16 January 2024. Ms QUAT expressed concern about measures to prevent breast cancer, cervical cancer and osteoporosis.

| Subject | Proposed timing for discussion |
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| <p>In January 2024, the above items were merged as suggested by the Administration.</p> | |
| 11. Update on Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme | 2nd quarter of 2024 |
| <p>The Government launched a three-year Chronic Disease Co-Care (“CDCC”) Pilot Scheme starting from November 2023 to provide subsidized hypertension and diabetes mellitus screening and management service for persons aged 45 or above.</p> | |
| <p>The Government plans to brief the Panel on the latest development of the CDCC Pilot Scheme.</p> | |
| 12. Elderly Health Care Voucher Greater Bay Area Pilot Scheme | 2nd quarter of 2024 |
| <p>The Administration is taking forward the ‘Elderly Health Care Voucher Greater Bay Area Pilot Scheme’ (“Pilot Scheme”) to extend the coverage of the Elderly Health Care Vouchers to suitable medical institutions in the Greater Bay Area (“GBA”) next year. The preliminary target is to cover about five additional medical institutions as trial service points for provision of primary healthcare services at GBA cities where Hong Kong elderly have closer ties with, as well as to include individual designated medical institutions providing dental services in places such as Shenzhen.</p> | |
| <p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the latest progress of the Pilot Scheme.</p> | |
| 13. Development of Chinese medicine | 3rd quarter of 2024 |
| <p>Item proposed by Prof Hon CHAN Wing-kwong and Hon Elizabeth QUAT on 16 January 2024.</p> | |
| <p>The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the various policy initiatives relating to the development of Chinese medicine.</p> | |

| | Subject | Proposed timing for discussion |
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| 14. | Accelerating the accessibility of Mainland medicines in Hong Kong Hon Elizabeth QUAT requested the Panel to discuss the subject on “Accelerating the accessibility of Mainland medicines in Hong Kong” vide her letters dated 11 and 21 November 2022 (LC Paper Nos. CB(4)957/2022(01) and CB(4)1008/2022(01)). Hon JoePHY CHAN Wing-yan and Hon TANG Ka-piu also requested discussion of “Improving drug registration system to implement the use of Mainland-made drugs in Hong Kong” vide their joint letter dated 11 November 2022 (LC Paper No. CB(4)967/2022(02)). Hon JoePHY CHAN Wing-yan and Hon Elizabeth QUAT further proposed discussion of this subject on 17 January 2023. The Administration’s response to the aforesaid letters was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)201/2023(01) on 21 March 2023. The Administration advised in January 2024 that the concerned topic has already been addressed in the Policy Address briefing held on 17 November 2023, and members can refer to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Administration’s paper provided for the meeting as well as the relevant extracts of the Policy Address. This outstanding item for discussion was thus proposed to be removed and written replies would be provided to Hon Elizabeth QUAT, Hon JoePHY CHAN Wing-yan and Hon TANG Ka-piu. | The Administration proposed to remove this item |
| 15. | Promoting organ donation as well as establishing legal framework and procedures for cooperation with the Mainland in organ transplantation Hon CHAN Hoi-yan, Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen and Hon Elizabeth QUAT requested the Panel to discuss the subject on “Proposal of cooperation with the Mainland in organ transplantation” vide their joint letter dated | The Administration proposed to remove this item |

Subject

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for discussion**

19 December 2022 (LC Paper No. CB(4)1114/2022(01)) (Chinese version only). The Administration's response has been issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)10/2023(01).

Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen and Hon Elizabeth QUAT further requested discussion of this subject on 17 January 2023.

The Panel also conducted a duty visit to the Big Data Centre of National Health Commission for Human Tissue, Organ Transplant and Medicine in Guangzhou in July 2023, with the purpose of learning about the operation of systems relating to organ donation, allocation and transplant in the Mainland. The duty visit report has been issued vide LC Paper No. CB(4)890/2023.

The Administration advised in January 2024 that in view of the motion debate on "Implementing cooperation with the Mainland in organ transplant" at the LegCo meeting on 24 May 2023, which covered the latest development of the relevant issue, it was therefore suggested to remove this outstanding item for discussion.

- 16. Provision of one-stop services for victims of sexual violence in and prevention of crime in psychiatric wards of public hospitals** To be confirmed

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

| | Subject | Proposed timing for discussion |
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| 17. | Pilot Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions 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. At the Panel meeting on 17 January 2023, Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen suggested discussion of the statutory registration of five healthcare professions (namely clinical psychologists, educational psychologists, dietitians, audiologists and speech therapists) under primary healthcare development. The Administration advised in January 2024 that Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen had raised an oral question on the relevant subject at the LegCo meeting on 1 November 2023, and the Government had replied . | To be confirmed |
| 18. | Implementation of the regulatory regime under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633) 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. | Second half of 2024 |

Subject

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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.

Subsequently on the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Commencement) Notice 2021 in August 2021, the Government indicated that, under the phased implementation plan, the regulatory regime for clinics and health services establishments would commence at a later stage. Taking into account DH's manpower situation, particularly the need for redeploying staff for COVID-19 related duties, applications for clinic licences and request for letters of exemption were expected to commence in 2023 at the earliest.

The Administration advised in January 2024 that as the COVID-19 epidemic subsided in 2023, DH has been planning the publicity and relevant guidelines in preparation for commencing the application for clinic licences and exemption letters for small practice clinics. The Government will brief the Panel at a suitable juncture when the preparation work is completed.

19. Corporate governance (including internal auditing and handling of patients' privacy), and manpower situation of the Hospital Authority

Second half of
2024

This subject includes the following items proposed by Members:

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;

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 HA;

Subject

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for discussion**

Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee at the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022 raised concern that some HA's doctors have turned to private practice after receiving specialist training in HA and requested to discuss the proposed topic; and

Corporate governance and manpower situation of HA and 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 January 2024, the above items were merged as suggested by the Administration.

20. Provision of treatment and support for cancer patients and rare disease patients To be confirmed

Hon Elizabeth QUAT requested vide her letter dated 13 September 2022 (LC Paper No. CB(4)828/2022(01)) the Panel to discuss the subject on "Strengthening support for rare disease patients and cancer patients". The Administration's response has been issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)858/2022(01).

21. Public-private Partnership Programme To be confirmed

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).

| Subject | Proposed timing for discussion |
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| Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen further suggested discussion of this subject on 16 January 2024. | |
| 22. Ophthalmology services | To be confirmed |
| 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 elderly, and requested that the Administration should review the effectiveness of providing ophthalmology specialist services. | |
| 23. Comprehensive policy on digital health technologies and legal framework of telehealth services | To be confirmed |
| Item proposed by Hon Duncan CHIU, Prof 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. In addition, he and Prof LEUNG proposed that a legal framework of telehealth services be formulated by the Administration. | |
| 24. 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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| <p data-bbox="164 286 1007 331">25. Professional conduct of healthcare personnel</p> <p data-bbox="288 376 1141 459">Item proposed by Prof Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun at the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022.</p> <p data-bbox="288 504 1141 792">The Administration suggested in January 2024 to remove this item with other outstanding items for discussion on COVID-19 vaccination programme as this item was raised by Prof LEUNG in view of the alleged discrimination by private doctors against Mainland’s vaccination notice. Prof LEUNG will be notified by the Administration.</p> | <p data-bbox="1166 286 1430 459">The Administration proposed to remove this item</p> |
| <p data-bbox="164 887 935 931">26. The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme</p> <p data-bbox="288 976 1141 1182">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.</p> <p data-bbox="288 1227 1141 1400">The Administration proposed in February 2023 to include this subject for discussion when there are major changes in epidemic prevention policy which entails the need to report to the Panel.</p> <p data-bbox="288 1444 1141 1697">The Administration pointed out in January 2024 that as Hong Kong has resumed full normalcy and the Panel was provided with the paper for the meeting on “Preparation for Winter Surge” on 13 October 2023 for discussion on the COVID-19 vaccination programme, this outstanding item for discussion was thus suggested to be removed.</p> | <p data-bbox="1166 887 1430 1059">The Administration proposed to remove this item</p> |
| <p data-bbox="164 1787 1141 1870">27. Reforming the composition and functions of the Medical Council of Hong Kong</p> <p data-bbox="288 1915 1141 1995">Item proposed by Hon CHAN Hoi-yan on 17 January 2023.</p> | <p data-bbox="1166 1787 1430 1821">To be confirmed</p> |

Subject

Proposed timing for discussion

At the request of Hon CHAN Hoi-yin, the Research Office of the Research and Information Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat prepared an information note on “[Composition, complaint investigation and disciplinary inquiry mechanisms of medical councils in selected places](#)” dated 22 November 2023 (“IN23/2023”).

28. Healthcare financing issues

To be confirmed

Item proposed by Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen on 17 January 2023 and 16 January 2024. Dr LAM suggested discussion on how to further enhance the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme by providing semi-private ward in public hospitals for people who had taken out voluntary health insurance, and exploring the establishment of individual or family healthcare accounts and adopting a co-payment model in the provision of newer and more expensive healthcare services.

At the request of Dr LAM, the Research Office of the Research and Information Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat prepared an information note on “[Healthcare financing in Singapore and the United States](#)” dated 28 June 2023 (“IN13/2023”).

29. Measures to support people having “Post COVID-19 condition” or “Long COVID”, and promoting the use of telemedicine services for the elderly at home and in residential care homes for the elderly

To be confirmed

Hon LEUNG Man-kwong requested the Panel to follow up on measures to address the sequelae of children infected with COVID-19 vide his letter dated 13 June 2022 (LC Paper No. CB(4)548/2022(01)) (Chinese version only). The Administration’s response has been issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)664/2022(01).

| Subject | Proposed timing for discussion |
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| <p>Hon Judy CHAN Kapui further suggested discussion of this subject on 17 January 2023.</p> | |
| <p>The Administration proposed in February 2023 to include this subject for discussion when there are major changes in epidemic prevention policy which entails the need to report to the Panel.</p> | |
| <p>30. Status of admission of non-locally trained doctors to practise in Hong Kong</p> | <p>The Administration proposed to remove this item</p> |
| <p>Item proposed by Hon Elizabeth QUAT on 17 January 2023.</p> | |
| <p>The Administration advised in January 2024 that for the purpose of admitting non-locally trained doctors, the Government had issued notices for recognizing four batches of medical qualifications recommended by the Special Registration Committee, which were tabled at LegCo for negative vetting. The subject has been discussed at the relevant subcommittee on subsidiary legislation and no new progress has been made for the time being. It therefore proposed to delete this outstanding item for discussion.</p> | |
| <p>31. Mental health services</p> | <p>To be confirmed</p> |
| <p>Item proposed by Hon LAM So-wai on 17 January 2023. Ms LAM proposed provision of such services by District Health Centres to deal with problems such as suicide and domestic violence. At the meeting on 16 January 2024, Hon LAM So-wai and Hon Elizabeth QUAT further suggested discussion of this subject. Ms LAM expressed concern about the suicide problem of children and carers of persons with disabilities.</p> | |
| <p>The Administration advised in January 2024 that it strived to implement the 10 enhanced measures announced in June 2023 for supporting persons in mental recovery and those with mental health needs, which</p> | |

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included launching a pilot scheme in three District Health Centres in collaboration with community organizations to provide mental health assessment for those in need, and to provide early follow-up and referral for high-risk cases. At the Panel meeting on 17 November 2023, the Government made a report under the agenda item on “Report on the new mental health initiatives and work of the Advisory Committee on Mental Health”.

The Panel Chairman advised in January 2024 that the Chairman of the Panel on Welfare Services suggested to discuss with the Chairman of the Panel on Health Services and the Chairman of the Panel on Education to hold a joint meeting to discuss the relevant subject.

32. Review of fees and charges for public healthcare services To be confirmed

Item proposed by Prof Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, Revd Canon Hon Peter Douglas KOON Ho-ming and Hon Elizabeth QUAT on 16 January 2024. Members expressed concern about Hong Kong people who had settled overseas returning to Hong Kong to receive public healthcare services, abuse of the accident and emergency departments, and ways to resolve the charging problem in the future, such as whether tiered charging would be adopted.

33. Legislative proposal to amend the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Cap. 359)

The
Administration
proposed to
remove this item

Item proposed by Prof Hon CHAN Wing-kong on 16 January 2024. Prof CHAN requested the Administration to fully consult the stakeholders before introducing legislative amendments and brief the Panel on the contents of the bill.

The Administration advised in January 2024 that the Government has twice consulted the Panel on the legislative amendment of the Supplementary Medical

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Professions Ordinance, first on 9 Sep 2022 and subsequently on 8 Dec 2023. Considering that the subject has already been thoroughly discussed by the Panel, this outstanding item for discussion was suggested to be removed.

34. Specialization of the nursing profession

Item proposed by Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen on 16 January 2024.

The
Administration
proposed to
remove this item

The Administration advised in January 2024 that an oral question on “[Introducing a registered nurse practitioners system](#)” was raised at the LegCo meeting on 8 February 2023. The specialization of nursing profession has also been covered in the discussion and addressed. No further follow-up issues were raised in the discussion. This outstanding item for discussion was thus suggested to be removed.