

Panel on Health Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 13 March 2025)

	Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
1.	Update on the Elderly Health Care Voucher Greater Bay Area Pilot Scheme The Government launched the “Elderly Health Care Voucher Greater Bay Area Pilot Scheme” (“Pilot Scheme”) in 2024 to extend the coverage of the Elderly Health Care Vouchers to seven medical institutions in the Greater Bay Area (“GBA”). The Pilot Scheme will be extended to cover nine Mainland cities in GBA. The Administration proposes to brief the Panel on the latest progress of the Pilot Scheme.	April 2025
2.	Progress on establishing the Institute for Medical Advancement and Clinical Excellence Item proposed by Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen at the work plan meeting on 21 January 2025.	April 2025
3.	Enhancing price transparency of private healthcare As announced by the Chief Executive in his 2024 Policy Address, the Government will explore legislating for private healthcare price transparency, with the plan to consult the healthcare sector in 2025. The Health Bureau intends to brief members on its latest proposal. On 14 January 2025, Hon CHAN Pui-leung suggested discussion of this subject.	May 2025

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4.	Current arrangements and next steps on the gamete and embryo storage period limit Under the Human Reproductive Technology (Licensing) Regulation (Cap. 561A), the maximum period for storing gametes or embryos for non-medical reasons is 10 years. The Council on Human Reproductive Technology is conducting studies on allowing an extension of the storage period, and the Administration proposes to brief the Panel on the latest development and next steps.	May 2025
5.	Update on Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme The Administration intends to brief Members on the latest development on the Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme. At the work plan meeting on 21 January 2025, the Administration advised that it would explain the relevant public-private partnership schemes and the strategic procurement work when discussing this subject.	June 2025
6.	Development of Community Drug Formulary and Community Pharmacy Programme The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the Community Drug Formulary mechanism and the progress on the development and implementation of the Community Pharmacy Programme. At the work plan meeting on 21 January 2025, the Administration advised that it would explain the relevant public-private partnership schemes and the strategic procurement work when discussing this subject.	June 2025
7.	Integration of women health services The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the plan and implementation progress for integration of women health services.	June 2025

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8.	Implementation of cancer screening programmes and treatments and support for patients with cancers and rare diseases 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). At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, Mr Edward LEUNG suggested discussion of this subject. At the meeting on 14 January 2025, Hon CHAN Hoi-yan proposed discussion of the details of the implementation of the cancer screening programme, including the requirements for patients. The Administration intends to brief the Panel on (i) the Government’s work in formulating risk-based screening programmes for prevalent cancers on a gradual basis; and (ii) treatment and support for patients with cancers and rare diseases provided by the Government and the Hospital Authority.	July 2025
9.	Progress update on the enhancement of the Whole School Health Programme The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the latest progress of the enhancement of the Whole School Health Programme.	July 2025
10.	Progress update on enhancements of public healthcare services The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the latest progress update on enhancements of public healthcare services.	July 2025

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<p>At the work planning meeting on 21 January 2025, the Administration agreed to give an account of the three items raised by Members earlier in the discussion on this subject, namely (i) provision of one-stop services for victims of sexual violence in public hospitals; (ii) prevention of crime in psychiatric wards of public hospitals of the Hospital Authority; and (iii) updates on the introduction of non-locally trained healthcare professionals by the Hospital Authority and their work in the local healthcare system.</p>	
<p>11. Revision of fees and charges for services not directly affecting people’s livelihood under the purview of the Department of Health</p>	4 th quarter of 2025
<p>The Department of Health plans to review its statutory fees and charges in the second quarter of 2025 and consult the Legislative Council on fee revision proposals.</p>	
<p>12. Latest development of the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme</p>	4 th quarter of 2025
<p>On 17 January 2023 and 16 January 2024, Dr Hon David LAM Tzit-yuen suggested discussion of healthcare financing issues, including 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.</p>	
<p>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).</p>	
<p>The Administration intends to report to the Panel the development of the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme since its launch in April 2019, and outline the arrangements</p>	

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on extending the insurance coverage to inpatient services of the Chinese Medicine Hospital of Hong Kong.	
13. Prepare for influenza season	4 th quarter of 2025
<p>Item proposed by Hon CHAN Hoi-yan at the meeting on 14 January 2025. Ms CHAN raised concern about the vaccination situation for seasonal influenza and the related hospital bed usage rate.</p> <p>The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the various preparatory works to cope with influenza season.</p>	
14. Report on the new mental health initiatives and work of the Advisory Committee on Mental Health	4 th quarter of 2025
<p>The Advisory Committee on Mental Health will brief the Panel on the work of the fourth term (1 December 2023 to 30 November 2025) and new initiatives in relation to mental health.</p>	
15. Update on eHealth+ Development	4 th quarter of 2025
<p>The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the latest development of eHealth+.</p>	
16. Pilot Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions	To be confirmed
<p>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</p>	

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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 Council meeting of 1 November 2023, and the Government had [replied](#).

17. 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.

Hon Judy CHAN Kapui proposed on 17 January 2025 discussion of promoting the use of telemedicine services for the elderly at home and in residential care homes for the elderly.

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18.	Reforming the composition and functions of the Medical Council of Hong Kong Item proposed by Hon CHAN Hoi-yan on 17 January 2023. At the request of Hon CHAN Hoi-yan, 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).	To be confirmed
19.	Review of fees and charges for public healthcare services 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.	To be confirmed
20.	Hospital development plans “Expansion of United Christian Hospital” was discussed at the meeting between Legislative Council Members and Kwun Tong District Council members on 29 November 2024. Dr Hon TIK Chi-yuen, convenor of the meeting, referred the participants’ concerns and suggestions about the above project, as well as the Government’s written response, to the Panel for consideration and follow-up. The relevant memorandum (Restricted to members only) was issued to members on 27 December 2024 vide LC Paper No. CB(3)1065/2024. At the work plan meeting on 21 January 2025, the Administration advised that it would brief the Panel on the progress and status of the hospital development plan.	To be confirmed

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Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun requested the Panel to discuss Tin Shui Wai Hospital expansion project vide his letter dated 12 March 2025 (LC Paper No. CB(3)335/2025(01)).

21. Latest progress on amending the Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance (Cap. 359) To be confirmed

Item proposed by Prof Hon CHAN Wing-kwong at the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025.

According to the 2025 Legislative Programme issued by the Director of Administration on 8 January 2025 (LC Paper No. CB(2)27/2025(01)), the Health Bureau plans to introduce the Supplementary Medical Professions (Amendment) Bill 2025 into the Legislative Council in the first half of 2025.

22. Latest progress on establishing a third medical school To be confirmed

Item proposed by Prof Hon CHAN Wing-kwong at the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025.