

Panel on Health Services

List of outstanding items for discussion

(position as at 14 May 2013)

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Waiting time management for Specialist Outpatient Clinics in the Hospital Authority	June 2013

At the meeting on 16 October 2012, Hon CHAN Han-pan proposed to discuss the subject at a future meeting.

At the meeting on 21 January 2013, the Administration advised that the Hospital Authority ("HA") had launched a cross-cluster referral arrangement for specialist out-patient services on a pilot basis to provide choices for patients and reduce the waiting time through a central coordination and matching system. The system had first been put on pilot run in the Ear, Nose and Throat Departments of the Kowloon East Cluster and the Kowloon Central Cluster, and a review of the system would be conducted later. HA would also explore the provision of similar referral arrangement for other specialist departments such as gynaecology. In addition, HA would also provide information on the waiting time for specialist out-patient services on the internet in phases for access by the public, so as to enhance transparency and overall accountability.

2. Pilot project on outreach primary dental care services for elderly in residential care homes and day care centres	June 2013
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The Panel was briefed on the pilot project at the meeting on 10 January 2011. The Administration advised that it planned to launch the pilot project for a period of three years, tentatively from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014.

The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel one year after the launch of the pilot project on a review of its effectiveness.

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<i>[Note: The Administration has advised that it would revert to the Panel after completion of the interim review on the pilot project.]</i>	
3. Improvement of doctors' working hour in public hospitals	July 2013
The Panel discussed with the Administration on the Final Report on Doctor Work Reform on 12 April 2010. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the progress of improving doctors' working hour in six to 12 months' time.	
4. Implementation of the Public-Private Chronic Disease Management Shared Care Programme	Second half of 2013
The Panel was briefed on the three-year pilot Programme at the meeting on 8 March 2010. The Administration advised that HA planned to send invitation letters to eligible patients in batches and arrange briefing sessions to introduce the Programme details starting from 2 nd quarter, 2010. The Administration agreed to revert to the Panel on the progress of the Programme one year after implementation.	
5. Refurbishment of Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital	To be confirmed
Item proposed by the Administration.	
The Administration plans to consult the Panel on the proposed project to refurbish the Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital to upgrade the existing facilities and enhance the services to patients.	
6. Community health centre at ex-Mong Kok Market site	To be confirmed
Item proposed by the Administration.	

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The Administration plans to consult the Panel on the funding proposal for establishing a community health centre at the ex-Mong Kok Market site before seeking approval of the Public Works Subcommittee/Finance Committee ("FC") of the Legislative Council ("LegCo"). The site has been earmarked for private commercial development. The construction works for the centre will be entrusted to the developer.

7. Health Protection Scheme

To be confirmed
(pending
deliberations of the
Subcommittee)

The Panel was briefed on 6 October 2010 on the proposed Health Protection Scheme ("HPS") set out in the Healthcare Reform Second Stage Consultation Document entitled "My Health My Choice" issued by the Administration on the same day for public consultation till 7 January 2011.

The Panel received public views on the proposed HPS on 11 December 2010 and further discussed the subject with the Administration on 13 December 2010. On 13 December 2010, the Administration advised that it planned to revert to the Panel on the outcome of the consultation within the 2010-2011 legislative session.

At the meeting on 11 July 2011, the Administration briefed the Panel on the Healthcare Reform Second Stage Public Consultation Report. The Panel decided to appoint a subcommittee to follow up the subject of the proposed HPS. Noting that more than eight subcommittees on policy issues were already in operation and the subcommittee would be put on the waiting list, members agreed that the Panel should convene special meetings to further discuss the subject pending the activation of the subcommittee. Members also agreed to receive public views on the subject.

A special meeting was held on 8 August 2011 for the purpose. At the meeting, the Panel agreed to the proposed terms of reference, work plan and time frame of the subcommittee. The House Committee agreed at the meeting on 21 October 2011 that the subcommittee could

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be activated only after any one of the subcommittees on policy issues in operation had completed its work.

Members agreed at the meeting on 13 October 2011 that pending the approval of the House Committee for the activation of the Subcommittee, the Panel should hold special meetings to discuss the subject. A special meeting was held on 24 November 2011 for the purpose. A further discussion with the Administration was held on 13 February 2012.

The Subcommittee on Health Protection Scheme, which commenced work in February 2012, has completed its work and submitted a report to the Panel on 10 July 2012. The Panel supported the recommendations of the Subcommittee which included, among others, the recommendation that the Panel should follow up the issue with the Administration in the fifth term of LegCo and appoint a subcommittee to assist its monitoring work in this regard if necessary.

On 26 October 2012, the Panel decided to appoint a subcommittee to follow up the issues relating to HPS. The Subcommittee on Health Protection has commenced work in December 2012. It has scheduled five meetings with the Administration from January to June 2013.

8. Proposed regulatory framework of medical devices

To be confirmed

The Panel was briefed on the proposed regulatory framework for medical devices at the meeting on 8 November 2010. The Administration advised that in response to the recommendation of the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee, it would conduct a business impact assessment at the detailed design stage. The Administration planned to report to the Panel on the outcome of the business impact assessment together with the details of the legislative proposal in 2011.

At the meeting, Dr Hon Joseph LEE and Hon Vincent FANG proposed that the trade and industry should be invited to give views on the subject.

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9. Regulation of pharmaceutical products in Hong Kong	To be confirmed
<p>On 24 March 2009, the Administration set up a Review Committee on Regulation of Pharmaceutical Products in Hong Kong to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing regime for the regulation and control of pharmaceutical products in the light of the drug incidents in early 2009. At the meeting on 11 January 2010, the Panel was briefed on the outcome of the review conducted by the Review Committee. The Administration advised that it would take follow-up actions to implement the 75 recommendations put forward by the Review Committee on measures to improve the existing regime, which included, among others, the necessary legislative amendments.</p> <p>At the informal meeting between the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel and the Secretary for Food and Health to discuss the Panel's workplan for the 2012-2013 legislative session on 25 October 2012, the Administration advised that it would consult the Panel on the relevant legislative amendments in the session.</p>	
10. Redeployment of directorate posts in the Department of Health	To be confirmed
<p>Item proposed by the Administration in the 2008-2009 legislative session.</p> <p>The Administration has advised that the discussion of the item was deferred due to the unavailability of time slot. Item was then planned to be incorporated in a composite proposal on creation of directorate posts for discussion on 12 April 2010. In the light of a letter dated 26 March 2010 from the Government Doctors' Association ("GDA") to the Director of Health, copied to Panel members, the item was withdrawn, pending further consultation with GDA.</p>	

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11. Regulation of "Health Maintenance Organizations"	To be confirmed
<p>The issue was last discussed by the Panel at the meeting on 11 June 2007. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the timeframe for establishing a statutory licensing regime to regulate health maintenance organizations to safeguard patients' welfare.</p>	
12. Referral from Duty Roster Member regarding the provision of medical services for children in poverty	(see note)
<p>On 16 April 2010, Duty Roster Members of LegCo met with representatives of the Hong Kong Society for Community Organization to receive views on the provision of medical services for children in poverty. Duty Roster Members agreed that the issue be referred to the Panel for follow-up.</p>	
<p><i>[Note: At the informal meeting between the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel and the Secretary for Food and Health to discuss the Panel's workplan for the 2012-2013 legislative session on 25 October 2012, it was agreed that the subject be discussed by the Panel in the context of "Waiting time management for Specialist Outpatient Clinics in the Hospital Authority" at a future meeting.]</i></p>	
13. Drug Formulary of HA and the Samaritan Fund	To be confirmed
<p>At the meeting on 10 July 2012, Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau requested the Administration to review the mechanism and operation of the Drug Formulary of HA and the Samaritan Fund, and revert to the Panel on the outcome of the review in the fifth term of LegCo.</p>	
<p>On 29 May 2012, Duty Roster Members of LegCo met with representatives of 加以域藥物關注組 to receive views on issues relating to the inclusion of "Glivec" in the Drug Formulary and applications from patients taking "Glivec" for assistance under the Samaritan Fund. Duty Roster Members agreed that the issue be referred to the Panel for</p>	

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follow-up. The relevant referral memorandum has been circulated to members on 26 October 2012 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)96/12-13.

At the meeting on 16 October 2012, Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG proposed to discuss the Drug Formulary of HA at a future meeting.

14. Public and private hospital development

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 13 October 2011, concern was raised over the infrastructure support of the healthcare system, including the service capacity of the public and private healthcare sectors to meet the increasing demand for healthcare services. The Administration was requested to brief the Panel on its plans for the development or redevelopment of public hospitals, as well as the development of the medical services industry, including the disposal of the four pieces of land reserved for private hospital development (at Wong Chuk Hang, Tseung Kwan O, Lantau and Tai Po respectively), as highlighted in the 2011-2012 Policy Address.

The invitation of tenders for the development of private hospitals at the two identified sites at Wong Chuk Hang and Tai Po opened on 13 April and will end on 27 July 2012. The Panel held a special meeting on 7 May 2012 to discuss and receive views from deputation on the land disposal arrangement of these two sites.

The Financial Secretary announced in his Budget Speech of 2012-2013 the redevelopment of the Queen Mary Hospital ("QMH") and Kwong Wah Hospital ("KWH") in the coming year. The redeveloped QMH would provide upgraded accident and emergency services and cardiology services. For KWH, redevelopment would involve revamping existing medical facilities, and strengthening the hospital's Chinese and Western medicines shared care services, including Chinese medicine in-patient service.

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[Note: In June 2012, the Administration advised that the development and redevelopment of public hospitals would be presented to the Panel project by project. It had briefed the Panel on the expansion of United Christian Hospital and the redevelopment of KWH on 12 March and 11 June 2012 respectively. The Administration would brief the Panel on the other projects upon completion of the relevant preparatory works.]

At the meeting on 18 December 2012, members requested the Administration to revert to the Panel on the blueprint to develop the medical services, including the service capacity of public and private hospitals. The Secretary for Food and Health advised that he would endeavour to provide an account of the development of the overall healthcare system from a macro perspective in 2013.

The Administration announced the tender result for the development of private hospitals at two reserved sites at Wong Chuk Hang and Tai Po on 13 March 2013. The Panel discussed private hospital development at the meeting on 15 April 2013.

15. Provision of obstetric services in the Tseung Kwan O Hospital

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 13 June 2011, the Administration advised that HA would monitor closely the manpower situation with regard to obstetric and paediatric services and would review in 2012-2013 the appropriate timing for the commissioning of the obstetric and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit services in the Tseung Kwan O Hospital ("TKOH"). Before such services were provided in TKOH, the relevant demand in the Kowloon East region could continue to be catered for by the United Christian Hospital.

At the meeting on 16 October 2012, Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT proposed to discuss the subject at a future meeting.

At the meeting on 21 January 2013, the Administration advised that while the birth projection for the Sai Kung District did not justify the provision of obstetric services in

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TKOH in the next three years, HA recognized there might be a need for such services in the longer term. With due regard to manpower constraint and the safety issue in connection with the provision of delivery and neonatal intensive care units services, HA would continue to make plan for the provision of manpower to prepare for the opening of such services in TKOH at an opportune time as and when sufficient manpower was available and safety standard could be assured. The Administration would revert to the Panel on the progress.

16. Mental health services

To be confirmed,
subject to
deliberation of the
Review Committee
on Mental Health

At the meeting on 25 February 2013, the Administration advised that it planned to set up a committee to review the existing mental health service provision with a view to promoting mental health, and strengthening support for persons with mental problems. The Administration aimed to convene the first meeting of the review committee in the second quarter of 2013. Subject to the deliberations at the review committee, the Administration's tentative schedule was to conclude the review in around a year's time.

At the meeting, Mr CHEUNG Kwok-che requested the Administration to revert to the Panel on the work of the review committee by stages before the completion of the whole review. The Secretary for Food and Health agreed.

17. Development of Chinese medicine

To be confirmed

The Chief Executive announced in his 2013 Policy Address in January 2013 that a Chinese Medicine Development Committee would be set up to study the policies and measures to further the development of the Chinese medicine industry. The key study areas of the Committee included enhancing the professional standards and status of Chinese medicine practitioners; strengthening research and development of Chinese medicine; promoting treatment with integrated Chinese and Western medicine; expanding the role of Chinese medicine practitioners and Chinese

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medicine in the public healthcare system; and introducing Chinese medicine in-patient services. The Committee held its first meeting on 4 March 2013.

The Panel was briefed on the work of the Government for development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong at the meeting on 18 March 2013. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the work progress in six to 12 months' time.

18. Development of a Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics

To be confirmed

The Panel was briefed on the proposed development of a Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics ("CEP") at two meetings on 12 March 2012 and 15 April 2013 respectively. Subject to funding approval from FC of LegCo, the design and construction works of CEP will commence in September 2013 with a target date for completion by mid-2017.

At the meeting on 15 April 2013, the Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the details of the governance of, as well as the software and resources to support the operation of, CEP when available.