

Panel on Health Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 14 March 2014)

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Mental health services for adults	April 2014

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. The Review Committee on Mental Health was subsequently set up in May 2013.

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 ("SFH") agreed.

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Helena WONG proposed that the Panel should follow up on the subject in the 2013-2014 session.

At the informal meeting between the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel and SFH to discuss the Panel's work plan for the 2013-2014 session on 16 October 2013, it was agreed that the Panel would follow up on the mental health service needs of different age groups in the session. The Administration would brief the Panel on the mental health services for adults in the first quarter of 2014.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>2. Provision of cataract surgeries in the Hospital Authority</p> <p>The Panel noted the letter dated 4 June 2013 from 爭取老人福利聯會 proposing discussion on the subject (LC Paper No. CB(2)1335/12-13(01)) and the information paper provided by the Administration in this regard (LC Paper No. CB(2)1531/12-13(01)) at the meetings on 17 June and 15 July 2013 respectively, and agreed that the subject should be discussed at a future meeting.</p>	April 2014
<p>3. Refurbishment of Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital</p> <p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p> <p>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.</p>	May 2014
<p>4. Cross-cluster referral arrangement for public specialist outpatient services of the Hospital Authority</p> <p>At the Panel meeting on 17 June 2013, in the context of discussing the waiting time management for Specialist Outpatient Clinics in the Hospital Authority ("HA"), the Administration was requested to, among others, revert to the Panel on the effectiveness of the cross-cluster referral arrangement for public specialist outpatient services in six months' time.</p>	June 2014
<p>5. Review on the regulation of private healthcare facilities</p> <p>At the meeting on 26 October 2012, the Administration advised that a Steering Committee on Review of the Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities was established in October 2012 to conduct a review into the regulatory regime for private healthcare facilities. Four working groups would be set up under the Steering Committee with a view to conducting focused study on well-defined topics. Upon completion of the review, the Administration would consult the public on the proposals put forward by the Steering Committee, and then proceed to legislative process as and when necessary.</p>	2 nd quarter 2014

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At the meeting on 20 May 2013, in the context of discussing the regulation of healthcare intermediary service, the Administration advised that the Working Group on Regulation of Private Hospitals under the auspices of the Steering Committee would examine, among others, the modus operandi of medical services offered under different organization forms, including professional partnership, and group practice under different ownership and management structure (healthcare intermediary schemes being one of them). The Working Group had commenced its work in February 2013 and would complete the review in around a year's time.

At the informal meeting between the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel and SFH to discuss the Panel's work plan for the 2013-2014 session on 16 October 2013, it was agreed that the Administration would brief the Panel on the review on the regulation of private healthcare facilities in the second quarter of 2014.

6. Mental health services for children and adolescents

2nd quarter 2014

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki and Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT respectively suggested that medical support to children with learning disabilities and mental health services for adolescents should be separately discussed by the Panel before the Review Committee on Mental Health concluded its review.

At the informal meeting between the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel and SFH to discuss the Panel's work plan for the 2013-2014 session on 16 October 2013, it was agreed that the Panel would follow up on the mental health service needs of different age groups in the session. The Administration would brief the Panel on the mental health services for children and adolescents in the second quarter of 2014.

7. Mental health services for the elderly

2nd quarter 2014

At the informal meeting between the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel and SFH to discuss the Panel's work plan for the 2013-2014 session on 16 October 2013, it was

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agreed that the Panel would follow up on the mental health service needs of different age groups in the session. The Administration would brief the Panel on the mental health services for the elderly in the second quarter of 2014.

8. Review on the operation of HA

July 2014

On 16 January 2013, the Chief Executive announced in his Policy Address that in view of the ageing population and the changing public needs for healthcare services, a steering committee would be set up to conduct a comprehensive review of the operation of HA to explore viable measures for enhancing the cost-effectiveness and quality of its services. The Hospital Authority Review Steering Committee was established on 21 August 2013. Its first meeting was held on 25 September 2013. The review was aimed to complete in around one year.

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki and Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested the Panel to have a discussion with the incoming HA Chairman, who would assume office on 1 December 2013, on issues relating to the operation of HA.

9. Proposed regulatory framework of medical devices

1st half of 2014

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.

At the meeting on 18 November 2013, in the context of discussing the regulation of medical treatments or

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procedures, the Administration advised that it would report to the Panel on the proposed regulation of medical devices in the first half of 2014. In view of the complexity of the issue and the rapid advances in technology, it would engage a consultant to conduct more in-depth study into the regulatory framework of cosmetic-related medical devices.

10. Health Protection Scheme

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.

To be confirmed,
subject to the
deliberations of the
Subcommittee on
Health Protection
Scheme

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 timeframe of the subcommittee. The House Committee agreed at the meeting on 21 October 2011 that the subcommittee could 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

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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 Scheme has commenced work in December 2012.

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG suggested the Panel to continue to follow up the subject.

11. Community health centre at ex-Mong Kok Market site To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration.

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 LegCo. The site has been earmarked for private commercial development. The construction works for the centre will be entrusted to the developer.

12. Redeployment of directorate posts in the Department of Health To be confirmed

Item proposed by the Administration in the 2008-2009 legislative session.

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

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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.

13. Public and private hospital development under the dual-track healthcare system

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 ended 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.

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. SFH advised that he would endeavour to provide an account of the development of the overall healthcare system from a macro perspective in 2013.

On 21 January 2013, in the context of discussing the policy initiatives in respect of health matters, members were advised that the vision of the current term Government was to ensure that the dual-track healthcare system encompassing both public and private elements remained strong and robust, and developed in a balanced and sustainable manner.

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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. In the course of discussion, members were advised of the expansion or redevelopment projects of existing private hospitals, and the individual proposals for developing private hospitals put forward by various organizations.

As regards public hospital development, the Panel was briefed on the redevelopment and expansion plans of public hospitals at the meeting on 15 July 2013. The Administration also advised that the Food and Health Bureau decided to return the reserved site at Tai Po for private hospital development to the Development Bureau for other development purposes.

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, members considered the suggestion of the Administration to remove the item from the list and were of the view that the Administration should revert to the Panel on its blueprint for the long-term development of public and private hospitals under the dual-track healthcare system.

At the informal meeting between the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel and SFH to discuss the Panel's work plan for the 2013-2014 session on 16 October 2013, it was agreed that the Panel would consider how the matter should be taken forward upon receipt of the Administration's supplementary information relating to the re-development and expansion plans of public hospitals as requested by members at the meeting on 15 July 2013.

On 10 February 2014, in the context of discussing HA's Surgical Outcomes Monitoring and Improvement Programme, Dr Elizabeth QUAT requested the Administration to revert to the Panel on the timetable for the implementation of the phase two expansion project of the Prince of Wales Hospital as early as possible.

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14. Provision of obstetric services in the Tseung Kwan O Hospital	To be confirmed
<p>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.</p>	
<p>At the meeting on 16 October 2012, Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT proposed to discuss the subject at a future meeting.</p>	
<p>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 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.</p>	
15. Development of a Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics	To be confirmed
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	

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With the funding approval of FC on 21 June 2013, construction works for CEP have commenced in August 2013.

16. Resources allocation among hospital clusters by HA

(See note)

At the meeting on 20 January 2014, the Panel was briefed on the resources allocation among hospital clusters by HA. Members were advised that issues relating to the resource management system within HA were being discussed by the Hospital Authority Review Steering Committee. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the outcome of the interim review by the Steering Committee in this regard.

[Note: The Administration has advised that the progress of the Steering Committee can be followed up in the context of "Review on the operation of HA"]

17. General Outpatient Clinic Public-Private Partnership Programme in Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin and Tuen Mun districts

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 17 February 2014, the Panel was briefed on the General Outpatient Clinic Public-Private Partnership Programme to be launched in Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin and Tuen Mun districts. Members were advised that an interim review would be conducted in six to twelve months after the launch of the Programme while a full review was planned after two years of Programme implementation. The Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the progress of the Programme one year after its implementation.

18. Substitute decision-making and advance directives in relation to medical treatment

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 8 December 2008, the Panel was briefed on the recommendations made by the Law Reform Commission ("LRC") on advance directives in its report entitled "Substitute Decision-making and Advance

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Directives in Relation to Medical Treatment" published in August 2006. Members were advised that taking into account that the concept of advance directives was not one with which the community was generally familiar, the Administration considered that it would be premature to attempt to formulate a statutory framework and to embark on any legislation process for advance directives at this stage. It would however consult and solicit inputs of the relevant professions and organizations on the information about advance directives to be provided to the public in the first quarter of 2009, with a view to enabling an informed choice by an individual who wished to make an advance directive.

The Administration has advised that having regard to the outcome of the consultation, it considered it more advisable to implement advance directives by way of legislation where there was a greater degree of awareness and consensus over the use of advance directives and that the community was ready for it. The Review Committee on Mental Health, which was set up in May 2013, would consider, among others, necessary changes to the Mental Health Ordinance (Cap. 136) including LRC's recommendations in relation to the definition of "mentally incapacitated persons".