

Panel on Health Services

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 23 October 2013)

- | Subject | Proposed timing
for discussion |
|---|---|
| 1. Regulation of pharmaceutical products in Hong Kong | November 2013 |
| <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>In September 2013, the Administration advised that as part of its efforts to implement the Review Committee's recommendations, the Administration was preparing the Pharmacy and Poisons (Amendment) Bill and planned to consult the Panel in November 2013.</p> | |
| 2. Regulation of medical beauty treatments or procedures | November 2013 |
| <p>At the meeting on 26 October 2012, the Administration advised that a Working Group on Differentiation between Medical Procedures and Beauty Services would be set up under the Steering Committee on Review of the Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities to differentiate between medical treatments and ordinary beauty services, and to make recommendations on procedures that should be performed by registered medical practitioners, as well as formulate guidelines as interim measures pending legislative enactment. According to the Administration, the Working Group was expected to present its views and recommendations to the Steering Committee in the third quarter of 2013.</p> | |

Subject

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

In his letter dated 12 July 2013 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1616/12-13(01)), Hon Vincent FANG requested the Panel to follow up on the progress of work of the Working Group. Members agreed at the meeting on 15 July 2013 that the Panel should wait until the Administration had released the recommendations put forward by the Working Group before following up the matter at a future meeting.

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Helena WONG proposed that the Panel should follow up on the regulation of medical beauty treatments or procedures.

3. Resources allocation among hospital clusters by the Hospital Authority

December 2013

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 resources allocation among hospital clusters by HA in six months' time.

Hon Alice MAK proposed the Panel to discuss the internal allocation and utilization of resources by HA vide her letter dated 18 June 2013 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1470/12-13(01)).

4. Regulation of pesticide residues in Chinese herbal medicines

December 2013

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Helena WONG proposed to discuss issues relating to the regulation of pesticide residues in Chinese herbal medicines at a future meeting. Details of her proposal are set out in her letter dated 10 October 2013 (LC Paper No. CB(2)35/13-14(01)).

5. Community health centre at ex-Mong Kok Market site

4th quarter 2013

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 the Legislative Council ("LegCo").

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>The site has been earmarked for private commercial development. The construction works for the centre will be entrusted to the developer.</p>	
6. Redevelopment of Queen Mary Hospital (Phase 1)	February 2014
<p>Item proposed by the Administration.</p>	
<p>The Administration plans to consult the Panel on the preparatory works for the redevelopment project to convert the Senior Staff Quarters for temporary decantation of existing facilities and equipment in three buildings in Queen Mary Hospital.</p>	
7. Implementation of the Public-Private Chronic Disease Management Shared Care Programme	1 st quarter 2014
<p>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 2nd quarter, 2010. The Administration agreed to revert to the Panel on the progress of the Programme one year after implementation.</p>	
8. Drug Formulary of HA and the Samaritan Fund	1 st quarter 2014
<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 follow-up. The relevant referral memorandum has been circulated to members on 26 October 2012 vide LC Paper No. CB(2)96/12-13.</p>	

Subject

Proposed timing for discussion

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

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Helena WONG suggested that the subject should be followed up by the Panel in the 2013-2014 session. Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG proposed to discuss subsidy provided to needy patients to meet their expenses on expensive drugs at a future meeting.

9. Mental health services for adults

1st quarter 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
10. Dental care policy and services for the elderly and people with disabilities	1 st quarter 2014
<p>The Panel was briefed on the dental care policy and the major findings of the interim review of the Pilot Project on Outreach Primary Dental Care Services for the Elderly in Residential Care Homes and Day Care Centres ("the Pilot Project") on 17 June 2013.</p>	
<p>At the meeting, the Administration was requested to (a) conduct a comprehensive review of the dental care policy and services, and revert to the Panel on the outcome of the review in six months' time; (b) plan ahead on how to take forward the pledge made by the Chief Executive in his election manifesto to provide additional resources to develop dental services for the elderly and school children in the public healthcare sector; and (c) study the financial and manpower resources required for including in the public healthcare system general dental care services for all elderly.</p>	
<p>The Administration advised that it would consider a full evaluation of the Pilot Project in mid-2014. It would revert to the Panel on the subject after completion of the final review on the Pilot Project.</p>	
<p>At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Helena WONG proposed the Panel to continue to follow up on the subject on dental care policy and services for the elderly. Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG suggested that the Panel should discuss the subject, as well as the dental care services for people with disabilities, as early as possible, preferably before the end of 2013.</p>	
11. Refurbishment of Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital	May 2014
<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>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
12. Review on the regulation of private healthcare facilities	2 nd quarter 2014
<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>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
13. Mental health services for children and adolescents	2 nd quarter 2014
<p>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.</p>	

Subject

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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.

14. 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 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.

15. Development of Chinese medicine

2nd quarter 2014

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 medicine in the public healthcare system; and introducing Chinese medicine in-patient services. The Committee held its first meeting on 4 March 2013. The establishment of the two sub-committees under the Committee, namely the Chinese Medicine Practice Sub-committee and Chinese Medicines Industry Sub-committee, was announced on 24 May 2013. The Committee and its sub-committees had commenced in-depth studies on some of the key development areas of Chinese medicine practice and

Subject

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for discussion**

Chinese medicines industry, and the Committee would forward its recommendations in due course for Government's consideration.

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.

At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG requested that the provision of integrated Chinese and Western medical services and clinical training opportunities for students of degree programmes in Chinese medicine be discussed at a future meeting.

16. Cross-cluster referral arrangement for public specialist outpatient services of HA

2nd quarter 2014

At the Panel meeting on 17 June 2013, in the context of discussing the waiting time management for Specialist Outpatient Clinics in 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.

17. 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.

Subject

Proposed timing for discussion

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.

18. Health Protection Scheme

To be confirmed,
subject to the
deliberations of the
Subcommittee on
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.

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.

Subject

Proposed timing for discussion

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 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.

19. 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.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
20. 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>	
21. Public and private hospital development under the dual-track healthcare system	To be confirmed
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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</p>	

Subject

Proposed timing for discussion

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.

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

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
and expansion plans of public hospitals as requested by members at the meeting on 15 July 2013.	
22. 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>	
23. 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>	

Subject

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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.

24. Provision of cataract surgeries in HA

To be confirmed

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.