

Panel on Health Services

List of outstanding items for discussion

(position as at 8 October 2014)

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Retention of the two supernumerary directorate posts of the Healthcare Planning and Development Office for five years	October 2014

Item proposed by the Administration.

Based on general public support for taking forward the Health Protection Scheme ("HPS"), the Administration sought approval from the Finance Committee ("FC") to set up the Healthcare Planning and Development Office ("HPDO") with two supernumerary directorate posts on 6 January 2012 for three years. HPDO was tasked to, among other duties, develop detailed proposals for implementing HPS. To continue to take forward HPS and other tasks under HPDO's purview, the Administration proposes to retain the two supernumerary directorate posts for five years. Subject to the Panel's endorsement, the Administration plans to proceed to seek approval from the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") in November 2014 and FC in December 2014.

2. Mechanism put in place by the Hospital Authority to ensure safety in the use of medical equipment and products	October 2014
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At the meeting on 21 July 2014, members considered the letter dated 9 July 2014 from Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki (LC Paper No. CB(2)2033/13-14(01)) proposing discussion on issues relating to the incident regarding the use of expired surgical sutures at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and the information paper provided by the Administration in this regard (LC Paper No. CB(2)2059/13-14(01)). Members agreed that the Panel should discuss the mechanism put in place by the Hospital Authority ("HA") to ensure safety in the use of medical equipment and products at a future meeting.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
3. Cross-cluster referral arrangement for public specialist outpatient services of HA	November 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.

At the informal meeting between the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Panel and the Secretary for Food and Health ("SFH") to discuss the Panel's work plan for the 2013-2014 legislative session on 16 October 2013, it was agreed that the Administration would revert the Panel on the subject in the second quarter of 2014. In May 2014, the Administration advised that it would revert to the Panel in the second half of 2014.

4. Retention of the two supernumerary directorate posts of the Electronic Health Record Office for three years	December 2014
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Item proposed by the Administration.

Based on general public support for taking forward a 10-year, two-stage programme to develop a territory-wide electronic health record sharing system ("eHRSS"), the Administration sought approval from FC on 10 July 2009 to set up a dedicated Electronic Health Record Office ("the eHR Office") with two supernumerary directorate posts for four years. With the approval of FC on 15 May 2013, the two posts were retained up to 31 March 2015.

According to the Administration, its target is to launch the Stage 1 eHRSS in around mid-2015, subject to the passage of the enabling legislation by the Legislative Council ("LegCo") in early 2015. It considers continued directorate support in the coming three years essential for steering the enactment of the enabling legislation, overseeing the implementation of the Stage 1 eHRSS and developing the Stage 2 eHRSS. The

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Administration thus proposes to retain the two supernumerary directorate posts in the eHR Office for three years. Subject to the Panel's endorsement, the Administration plans to proceed to seek approval from ESC in January 2015 and FC in February 2015.

5. Mental health services for children and adolescents

2nd half of 2014/
early 2015

Pursuant to the establishment of the Review Committee on Mental Health in May 2013, Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki and Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT respectively suggested at the meeting on 10 October 2013 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 legislative 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. In May 2014, the Administration advised that it planned to brief the Panel on the mental health services for children and adolescents in the second half of 2014.

6. Mental health services for the elderly

2nd half of 2014/
early 2015

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 legislative 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. In May 2014, the Administration advised that it would brief the Panel on the mental health services for the elderly in the second half of 2014.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
7. Review on the operation of HA	early 2015
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</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 legislative session on 16 October 2013, it was agreed that the Administration would brief the Panel on the review on the operation of HA in July 2014. In June 2014, the Administration advised that the review was expected to complete in early 2015. It planned to brief the Panel on the subject in the second half of 2014 or early 2015.</p>	
8. Research study on regulation of aesthetic practices in selected places	To be confirmed
<p>At its meeting on 28 April 2014, the Panel agreed to request the Research Office of the Legislative Council Secretariat to conduct a research study on regulation of aesthetic practices in selected places. Members considered and endorsed the research outline of the study at the meeting on 16 June 2014. The draft research report has been completed and an informal meeting to discuss the draft report will be arranged.</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
9. Review on the regulation of private healthcare facilities	To be confirmed

At the meeting on 26 October 2012, the Administration advised that a Steering Committee on Review of the Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities ("the Steering Committee") 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.

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 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 legislative 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. The Panel was briefed on 21 July 2014 the progress of the work and the major recommendations on the review. Members were advised that the Administration was considering the findings and recommendations of the Steering Committee and aimed to conduct a public consultation exercise on the revamped regulatory regime for private healthcare facilities in the second half of 2014.

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
10. Health Protection Scheme	To be confirmed, subject to the deliberations of the Subcommittee on Health Protection Scheme
<p>On 6 October 2010, the Government published the Healthcare Reform Second Stage Public Consultation Document entitled "My Health My Choice" in which a voluntary and government-regulated HPS was proposed for public consultation. According to the Healthcare Reform Second Stage Public Consultation Report released on 11 July 2011, members of the public have expressed support for the introduction of HPS.</p>	
<p>At the meeting on 11 July 2011, the Panel decided to appoint a subcommittee to follow up the subject of the proposed HPS. The subcommittee commenced work in February 2012 when a vacant slot became available to accommodate its activation. The subcommittee 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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>At the meeting on 10 October 2013, Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG suggested the Panel to continue to follow up the subject.</p>	
11. Community health centre at ex-Mong Kok Market site	To be confirmed
<p>Item proposed by the Administration in the 2012-2013 legislative session.</p>	
<p>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/ FC of LegCo. The site has been earmarked for private commercial development. The construction works for the centre will be entrusted to the developer.</p>	

Subject	Proposed timing for discussion
12. 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>	
13. 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 of public and private hospitals.</p>	

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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 legislative 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.

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At the meeting on 10 February 2014, in the context of discussing HA's Surgical Outcomes Monitoring and Improvement Programme, Dr Hon 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.

The Chief Executive announced in his 2014 Policy Address that the Government had decided to reserve a site in Tseung Kwan O, originally earmarked for private hospital development, to set up a Chinese medicine hospital.

At the meeting on 19 May 2014, in the context of discussing the refurbishment of Hong Kong Buddhist Hospital, the Chairman urged the Administration to provide as soon as possible the information requested by members at the meeting on 15 July 2013.

Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT proposed vide her letter dated 19 August 2014 (LC Paper No. CB(2)2234/13-14(02)) that the Panel should discuss the implementation of the phase two expansion project of the Prince of Wales Hospital in the 2014-2015 legislative session.

14. 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.

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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.

Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT proposed vide her letter dated 22 August 2014 (LC Paper No. CB(2)2234/13-14(03)) that the Panel should discuss the subject in the 2014-2015 legislative session.

15. 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.

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.

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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. Policy on rare diseases** To be confirmed

At the meeting on 17 March 2014, in the context of discussing HA's Drug Formulary and the Samaritan Fund, members agreed that the subject on policy on rare diseases should be discussed at a future meeting.

- 19. Complaints handling mechanism of the Medical Council of Hong Kong** To be confirmed

At the meeting on 28 April 2014, the Panel considered two submissions dated 28 March and 24 April 2014 respectively from a member of the public proposing discussion on matters relating to the complaints handling mechanism of the Medical

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Council of Hong Kong (LC Paper Nos. CB(2)1251/13-14(01) and CB(2)1382/13-14(01)) and the response provided by the Administration in this regard (LC Paper No. CB(2)1364/13-14(01)). Members agreed that the subject should be discussed at a future meeting.	
20. Private patient services provided by the teaching staff of the two local universities with medical faculties at the two teaching hospitals	To be confirmed
At the suggestion of Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki, members agreed at the meeting on 28 April 2014 that issues relating to the provision of private patient services by the teaching staff of the two local universities with medical faculties at the two teaching hospitals should be discussed at a future meeting.	
21. Mental health policy and services	To be confirmed
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. Hon 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 Review Committee on Mental Health was subsequently set up in May 2013. 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 legislative 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.	
At the meeting on 28 April 2014, the Panel was briefed on the progress of the mental health review being conducted by the Administration and proposals for strengthening mental health services provided by HA for adults. Members agreed that the Panel should receive views from relevant stakeholders on the subject.	

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<p>The Panel received views from 22 deputations on the subject at the meeting on 16 June 2014. Members agreed that the Administration should provide a consolidated written response to views expressed by the deputations, and the Panel should revisit the subject in the 2014-2015 legislative session.</p>	
22. Quality management of pathology reports in HA	To be confirmed
<p>Dr Helena WONG proposed vide her letter dated 14 August 2014 (LC Paper No. CB(2)2204/13-14(01)) discussion on issues relating to the pathology incident of the United Christian Hospital, the Chairman instructed that the subject of quality management of pathology reports in HA be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.</p>	
23. Prenatal screening for Down's syndrome under the Department of Health and HA	To be confirmed
<p>Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT proposed in her letter dated 19 August 2014 (LC Paper No. CB(2)2234/13-14(01)) discussion on introduction of non-invasive prenatal test for Down's syndrome in public hospitals, the Chairman instructed that the subject of prenatal screening for Down's syndrome under the Department of Health and HA be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.</p>	
24. Substitute decision-making and advance directives in relation to medical treatment	To be confirmed
<p>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 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</p>	

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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".

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 October 2014