



2017 Policy Address



Major Food & Health
Policy Measures

January 2017

Meeting the Healthcare Needs of the Elderly Better

- Enhancement of Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme
 - ▣ Lowering the present eligibility age of 70 to 65 within 2017, so that more elders will receive the annual voucher amount of \$2,000 to use private primary care services
- Extending the medical fee waiver of public healthcare services to cover the older and poorer Old Age Living Allowance recipients (i.e. those aged 75 or above with assets not exceeding \$144,000 (elderly singletons) or \$218,000 (elderly couples))



Meeting the Healthcare Needs of the Elderly Better

- To provide free or subsidised 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine to high-risk elders aged 65 or above



Meeting the Healthcare Needs of the Elderly Better

- To increase the Hospital Authority's (HA's) operating theatre sessions for surgery and traumatology, set up geriatric fragility fracture co-ordination services in designated acute hospitals, and enhance physiotherapy service for elderly patients
- To enhance the services provided by the HA's Community Geriatric Assessment Teams for terminally ill patients living in residential care homes for the elderly
- To strengthen medical-social collaboration with a view to providing a full range of transitional care service and the required assistance for those elderly persons discharged from public hospitals



Enhancing Healthcare Services Provision

- To increase the recurrent provision for the HA by \$2 billion annually from the next financial year onwards
- To increase the number of public hospital beds and operating theatre sessions and the quota for endoscopy examination and diagnostic radiological service
- To increase the quota for general out-patient and specialist out-patient consultation and enhancing Accident & Emergency Services



Enhancing Healthcare Services Provision

- To invite the Community Care Fund to consider implementing two new pilot schemes to provide drug subsidies for eligible patients with uncommon disorders and subsidies for eligible public hospital patients to purchase specified implantable medical devices for interventional procedures respectively
- Formulating a more robust policy and legislative framework to facilitate end-of-life care planning and the provision of palliative care outside hospital settings



Development of Public and Private Hospitals

Ten-year Hospital Development Plan

- Continuing with the implementation of the \$200 billion Ten-year Hospital Development Plan



Private Hospital Development

- Construction of the Chinese University of Hong Kong Medical Centre has started
- A new private hospital will be completed for commissioning early this year



Healthcare Infrastructure

Electronic Health Record (eHR) Sharing

- The eHR Sharing was launched on 13 March 2016.
- To commence the development of the second stage of the system later this year.



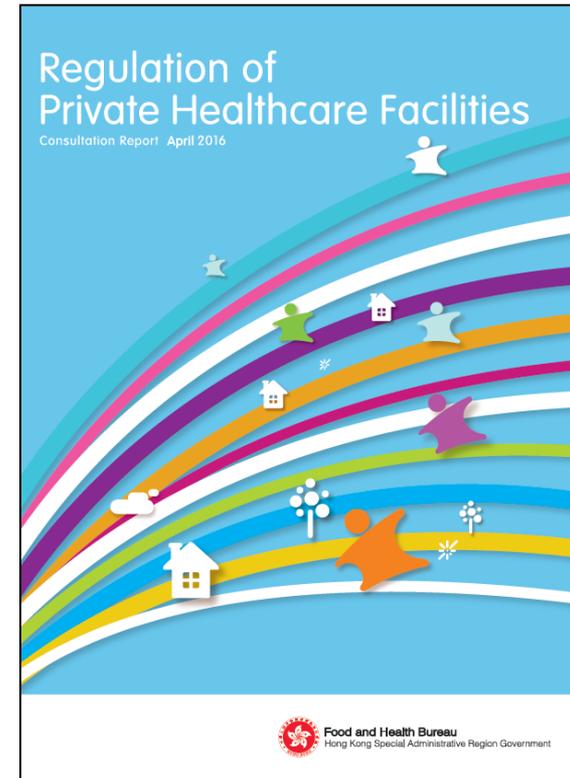
Strengthening tobacco control and smoking cessation services

- To launch a pilot public-private partnership programme to test a new mode of smoking cessation service supported by family physicians
- To actively study the proposal on regulation of electronic cigarettes through legislation
- To step up patrol and enforcement actions in statutory no-smoking areas



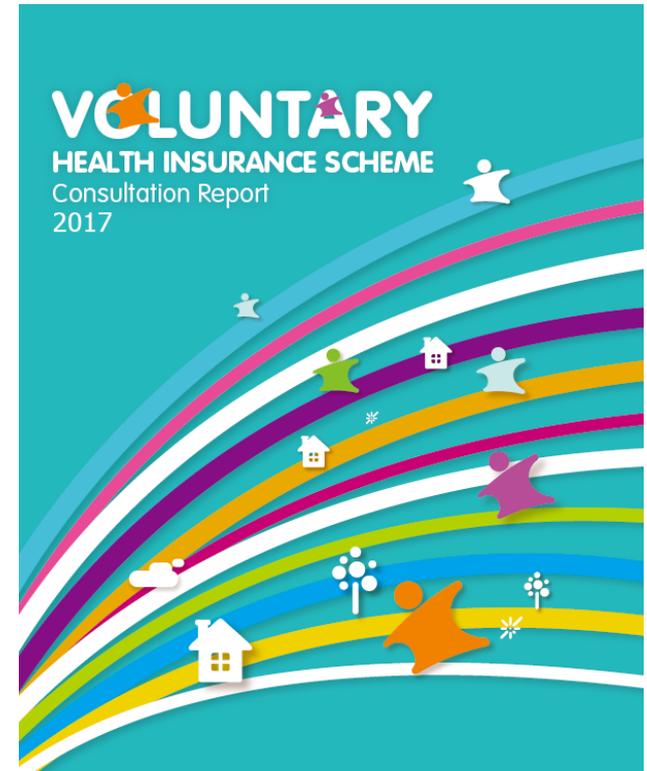
Regulation of private healthcare facilities

- To strengthen the regulation of private healthcare facilities, with a view to ensuring patient safety and protecting consumer rights
- To establish a new regulatory regime by introducing a bill to the LegCo in the first half of 2017



Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme

- To implement the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme to improve the quality and transparency of individual hospital insurance products.
- To examine details of providing tax deduction for purchase of regulated hospital insurance products.



Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development

- To publish the report in the first half of 2017
- To make recommendations on
 - manpower to ensure stability of supply in the long run; and
 - charting the development of standards and regulation of the healthcare professions.



Improving the Operation of the Medical Council of Hong Kong

- To introduce the Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill into the LegCo as early as possible in the first half of 2017 –
 1. Improve the complaint investigation and disciplinary inquiry mechanism;
 2. Increase lay participation to increase accountability and transparency; and
 3. Extend the valid period of limited registration from not exceeding one year to not exceeding three years

Pilot Scheme on Accredited Registers for Healthcare Professions

- To enhance the current society-based registration arrangement under the principle of professional autonomy for healthcare professionals who are not subject to statutory regulation in Hong Kong
- To ensure the professional competency of healthcare personnel and provide more information to the public so as to facilitate them to make informed decisions

Mental Health Policy

- To publish the review report on mental health in the first half of 2017
- To set up a standing advisory committee on mental health to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the Review committee on Mental Health
- To strengthen mental health services



Promoting a healthy lifestyle

- To promote and support breastfeeding, as well as implement the “Hong Kong Code of Marketing of Formula Milk and Related Products, and Food Products for Infants & Young Children” to prevent inappropriate marketing practices



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Disease prevention and control

- To extend the Newborn Screening for Inborn Errors of Metabolism to all public hospitals with maternity wards in phases starting from the second half of 2017-18
- To expand the scope of eligible groups for free / subsidised seasonal influenza vaccination
- To invite the Community Care Fund to consider providing subsidies for eligible low-income women aged 25 or above to receive cervical cancer screening and education on prevention to reduce the risk of developing cervical cancer



Chinese medicine



□ Chinese medicine service

- To finance the construction of a Chinese medicine hospital at Tseung Kwan O and invite the HA to assist in identifying a suitable non-profit-making organisation to take forward the project and operate the hospital
- To allocate provisions for the HA to continue the implementation and expansion of the Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine Pilot Project.
- Requested the HA to review the salary level of the Chinese medicine practitioners employed at the Chinese Medicine Centres for Training and Research.





□ Development of Chinese medicines

- Compilation of Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards, and pilot study on the reference standards setting for Chinese medicines decoction pieces
- Pending the establishment of the permanent Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute, a temporary one will be set up by the Department of Health at the Science Park. It will come into operation in phases starting from the 1st quarter of this year.



Public Markets

- To build sizable public markets in the Tung Chung New Town Extension Area and Hung Shui Kiu New Development Area (NDA), and has initially identified suitable sites
- To continue to identify suitable sites in other NDAs
- To continue to enhance the hardware of a number of existing public markets, including reprovisioning, reconfiguration and upgrading of facilities, etc; and at the same time enhance the management

Environmental Hygiene



Territory-wide cleansing initiative

- After the “Keep Clean 2015 @ Hong Kong: Our Home” Campaign, FHB established a mechanism for regular exchange of views with the Chairmen and Vice-chairmen of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Committee of the District Councils
- After consulting the meeting attendees on 20 September 2016, FEHD commenced a pilot scheme on installation of IP cameras at hygiene blackspots on 30 December 2016

Additional resources

- To allocate an additional \$119 million a year to intensify the cleansing of the environment and strengthen the related enforcement and prosecution work

Columbarium policy

- **Increasing supply of public niches**
 - Consulted nine District Councils (DCs) in respect of projects at 14 sites; plan to consult relevant DCs in respect of another three projects in the coming year

- **Regulating private columbaria**
 - Re-introduced the Private Columbaria Bill into LegCo

- **Promoting green burial**
 - Rolled out a new round of publicity efforts last year



New Agriculture Policy



- Since announcement last year, the New Agriculture Policy and its major initiatives have been progressing well :
 - Agricultural Park
 - Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund
 - Consultancy study to examine the designation of “Agricultural Priority Areas”

Food Safety

- Major initiatives in 2017 include:
 - Review and update food safety standards (e.g. safety and quality standards for edible fats and oils, metallic contamination in food, etc.)
 - The Centre for Food Safety will strengthen its manpower resources and enhance its IT management system to optimise food import control and surveillance

Thank you

