



lai benjamin

<>

22/03/2008 16:45

To beStrong@fhb.gov.hk

cc

bcc

Subject Healthcare reform

Urgent Return receipt Sign Encrypt

Dear Sir,

Please find attached my personal views on healthcare reform.

Regards,

Benjamin Lai

Looking for last minute shopping deals? [Find them fast with Yahoo! Search.](#)



Never miss a thing. [Make Yahoo your homepage.](#) Views on healthcare reform8322.doc

Views on healthcare reform

Submitted to fhb.gov.hk by Dr. Benjamin Lai Sau Shun dated 22 April 08

I understand that in presenting a concise document outlining the problems and options in health care financing for consultation the Bureau must have considered other detailed information and options but not presented in the current consultation document. I wish to raise some questions and points for your consideration as follows,

- i. To what degree the current medical and health care personnel in the public and private sectors can satisfy the service need of the population in Hong Kong currently and in the coming future, say in twenty years' time. I suppose we have manpower survey of healthcare personnel and have data on the number of hours they are at work each week. Such information is important in the consideration of feasibility of a family health service model and the ultimate health services model to be proposed by the Bureau.
- ii. To what degree the current medical and health services, both public and private, are utilized judiciously and appropriately or otherwise. I suppose promotion of judicious and appropriate use of medical and health services will be an important aspect in public medical education.
- iii. The cost of services in the Hospital Authority is very high. I gather this has been related to the high salary and allowances. After the retirement of staff with such high salary and allowance, there should be a prospect for HA to be able to employ more staff to meet the service. I suppose there are data as to the time such is possible.
- iv. I support the view of a proposal on a universal medical insurance scheme as a component in the ultimate health care financing system. It is important that even with medical insurance, a person needs to pay a certain amount of money each time when he seeks a medical consultation. This is likely to promote judicious use of

medical services. There should also be guidelines to the medical practitioners as to the amount of time a doctor is expected to spend for each patient as an assurance of appropriate standard of care and reduction of unnecessary claim of medical expenses.

- v. As to the persons who should pay for the medical insurance, I suggest the Bureau to consider collecting insurance fees from everyone other than the disadvantaged group instead of just from those at work. I suppose the Bureau has considered the option of mandatory medical insurance to be purchased by employers for their employees. The money promised by the Government in the health care financing will be important in supporting the setting up of the universal medical insurance scheme and subsidizing those who cannot afford to pay the premium.
- vi. As to the increasing cost of medical and health care in the future, I wonder the Bureau can consider options to cut cost in the future. Such may include an increase in the number of medical, other health care personnel, or personal care workers in the future.
- vii. On the whole I support the option on personal health care reserve.