



Sara Cheung

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To beStrong@fhb.gov.hk

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Subject Comments on Health Care Reform consultation

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my comments on the Health Care Reform Consultation document for Hong Kong as follows:

1. I support the concept of out-of-pockets payments so that Hospital Authority should increase the charges for health care related services gradually to reduce the burden of Hong Kong government provided that:

i) Hong Kong government should invest more fundings into the Public Health Care safety net for those elderly patients and poverty populations to apply for so that no people would be untreated in Hong Kong if needed. Under this circumstance, HK government should have proper monitoring of the investment of the fundings (hoping that the unused fundings would be invested for growth) in the public health care safety net as well as the application criteria for those people using this funding to avoid misuse or abuse of the funding.

ii) Hospital Authority should cooperate with private medical services to divert those patients who can afford part of the medical charges to use private medical service (with subsidize from Hospital Authority or the public health safety net) to enhance the growth of private medical services in Hong Kong to maintain a balance between public and private sectors in the medical field in Hong Kong as well as reducing the charges difference between two sectors for the public to make their choice.

2. Concurrently, I also support the concept of voluntary private health insurance by the public so that:

i) people could choose their preferred medical service level within their comfort zone.

ii) Hong Kong government should promote and enhance this concept e.g. granting taxation benefit for those employers and employees who purchase the private health insurance so that private medical sector could growth gradually and the private health insurance companies would compete with each other and provide more comprehensive plans and coverage for people to choose.

iii) if people couldn't afford to purchase their own private health insurance, they could still attend the Hospital Authority's public service paying the normal medical charges. If they couldn't afford the Hospital Authority's charges, they could apply for the sponsorship from the public health safety net funding if they fulfill the application criteria (which shouldn't be a long application process).

Besides, I believe that hospital authority should maintain a well balance expense control so that resources could go to the right place for the right people.

Thanks
Sara Cheung

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