



"Lam, James"

12/06/2008 14:01

To <bestrong@fhb.gov.hk>

cc

bcc

Subject Healthcare Reform Consultation Document -
personal opinion

Urgent Return receipt Sign Encrypt

Dear Sirs/Madam,

I was given the chance to go through the captioned document and would like to give some of my personal opinion as follows:-

1. I support to have the reform even though I expect I need to pay more in the future.
2. I like the vision statement, but I have some reservation on the proposed action items/plan. Understand this might be the first consultation document and not much details have been included but it is important for a tax payer and/or one of the major contributor to this reform to know what we want to achieve, why we need to do that, how we are going to achieve it, when you are planning to do it and who is accountable for the outcome. I run operation in commercial sector and this will be my prime consideration for every project. It would be great to know who is accountable for this reform.
3. The proposed reform shall review the role of Hospital Authority which is the largest service provider at this time. I personally would like to see the system where the patients have the choice so that HA and private healthcare providers can compete for the patients. This will help to accelerate the HA reform as well.
4. New technology is more costly, but it might not be a bad thing. The key point is how to evaluate the effectiveness e.g. how many people in our system who really understand the topic of "Healthcare Economic". Besides, the current HA funding structure will not encourage any initiative of using new technology to reduce the cost. Most of the resources in HA system goes to the payroll and our consultant compensation/benefit may be the best around the globe : any plan to change this situation e.g. one time compensation to reset the whole game plan. I would prefer to pay one time fee in the reform on the HA's payroll system and then increase the lower level doctor and clinicians salary plus the number of staff. When money goes with patient, the hospital administration has to think more creative to provide the same level of service as outlined in your vision but with less resources.
5. In your consultation document page 4 - advancement of medical technology: I support the idea to use new technology but how to cut cost from other part of the budget, instead of going to the conclusion for applying more funding. If we do not manage this well, we will continue to face higher expenses year after year. For example, if we can use a new technology to treat certain disease which can reduce the hospital stay, the overall target has to cut the number of beds as this is fixed cost. Specialisation can also reduce the overall cost instead of every hospitals have their own speciality. My concern who is accountable for this reform.
6. I believe the ultimate solution has to increase the tax contribution, but there must a system to ensure that all necessary measures have been taken and some of this measures can be one time cost - we should not mix up a one time cost solution with your proposed healthcare reform. Besides, those one time cost reform can also lead to less burden to the tax payer in the long run. One of the typical example is the salary structure review for the HA system. A fraction of the reserve of the HK\$ 50 billions for this proposed reform may be able to resolve the fundamental problem and reset the clock to zero and start the game again.

Best regards,

Jams Lam

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