



"Tommy Lui"
13/06/2008 16:16

To beStrong@fhb.gov.hk
cc
bcc
Subject Healthcare Reform Consultation

Urgent Return receipt Sign Encrypt

Hi

I'd like to respond to the consultation document of HK's healthcare reform.

1. I concur with the vision stated for the healthcare system - "...to achieve a healthcare system that improves the state of health and quality of life of our people, and provides healthcare protection for every member of the community" - and the fundamental principles for the design of the healthcare system:

- (a) uphold our long-established healthcare policy that no one should be denied adequate healthcare through lack of means;
- (b) ensure that necessary healthcare services remain accessible and affordable to the community;
- (c) maintain the public healthcare system as a safety net for the low-income and under-privileged groups and those in need; and
- (d) upkeep the professional standards and conduct of the healthcare professions.

2. I also agree to the objectives of the reform, which are:

- "(a) provide you with access to lifelong, comprehensive and holistic primary care, with emphasis on health-improving preventive care;
- (b) provide you with more choice of quality, efficient and cost-effective healthcare in both the public and private sectors;
- (c) provide you with healthcare protection and peace of mind in case you are struck by illnesses that need costly treatment; and
- (d) continue the partnership between the Government and you in sharing the financial commitment for your better health.

3. I have no concern on increasing recurrent government expenditure for medical and health services from 15% to 17% of overall recurrent government expenditure by 2011-12. However, I do not think the HA is currently running the organization and services efficiently, and there are a lot of waste in the system and the hospitals.

4. Regarding the six reform proposals:

- (a) Enhance primary care - agree in principle
- (b) Promote public-private partnership - agree in principle
- (c) Develop electronic health record sharing - that's the way to go
- (d) Strengthen public healthcare safety net - agree in principle
- (e) Reform healthcare financing arrangements to provide supplementary financing, apart from increased government funding - please see comments below.

I am more concerned about the implementation of the above. Does HK HA have these expertise? What is the right structure to move the above ahead? How much time are we talking about?

5. For supplementary financing, I do not agree to any new mandatory scheme. I support that the Government funding should continue to finance existing and certain of the new, non-specific group, reform initiatives stated above through increased spending. On the other hand, Government should extend the healthcare safety net to cover the

underprivileged/needy by encouraging them to participate in voluntary healthcare insurance services through some form of premium subsidy. This ensures insurance services are delivered in competitive market environment, the risk pooling is catered for the motivated users, and the users take responsibility in service consumption.

--

Regards

Tommy Lui