



"yuen"

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To <beStrong@fhb.gov.hk>

cc

bcc

Subject Healthcare Reform Consultation

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Dear Sir,

The following is my opinion on the healthcare reform consultation document.

### **Your Health Your Life Healthcare Reform Consultation Document**

Enhancing primary care is much more important than reforming healthcare financing arrangements. I embrace all what you said about primary care. A good primary care is the single most important factor to reduce the costly specialist and hospital cares. Hence it is the most important factor determining healthcare expenses in future. I would like to see the Government to put effort realizing the visions for primary care before going into discussing financing reforms.

The importance of primary care in the overall healthcare picture is not new. It was mentioned in previous healthcare reform documents and yet it was limited to talks only. The government has the opportunity to try out the primary care model in-house by making use of the medical benefits for civil servants. It would be an unfortunately oversight of the administration to have overlooked this opportunity.

There are about 500,000 persons eligible for the medical benefit for civil servants. The demographic make-ups are reasonably representative of the general population. The Family Clinics arrangement under the medical benefit for civil servants provides a good infra-structure to carry out the primary care concepts mentioned in your document. The family clinics are able to provide continuous, comprehensive and holistic healthcare stressing on preventive care, screenings, gate-keeping for specialist/hospital care, and carrying out maintenance care for chronic diseases besides attending to curing episodic illnesses. The health outcomes and quality-of-life of the patients can be monitored, manpower and resources requirement gauged, and referral pattern studied. This allows benchmarking purposes and fine-tuning of the modes of service delivery.

The government medical benefit for civil servants can serve as a trial ground for pilot studies and launching-pad for major initiatives. I do not foresee possible objections from civil servants as the change is in the positive direction benefiting the users of the service.

Keith YUEN Kwok-wah