

6<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

Food + Health Bureau  
19/F Murray Building  
Garden Rd  
Central, HK.

Dear Sir,

View on the Healthcare Reform  
Consultation Document

The following are my views,

- (a) The responsibility of looking after the healthcare of a nation, country rests with the government NOT the individual even the individual has his or her part to play to look after his own health by living properly and eating properly.
- (b) This is quite wrong for the SAR

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Government to adopt the long established public healthcare policy, based on the policy that "no one should be denied adequate healthcare through lack of means". This policy should be changed according to advanced and developed country whereby the primary and secondary / tertiary healthcare is interlinked, interfaced and comprehensive. The existing SAR healthcare system is full of problem where primary and secondary healthcare is segregated, fragmented and the "so called" public / private interface are not fully developed with no direction. The quality of even public tertiary care i.e. government funded HA hospitals are asking patients to go to private sectors to ~~be~~ have x rays, ultrasounds, CT Scan (to pay out of pockets) so as to

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have speedy diagnosis of their illness especially those suspected to have malignant tumour. Those who cannot afford (I have seen many cases) and who do not know how to handle this arrangement, died. Such are the tragedies of our healthcare system and why do these happen in SAR HK Region where our standard living is high and Government is boasting of high surpluses & savings in these few years. There <sup>urgent</sup> need to be a overall review of HA funded hospital into the clinical management of each specialties of priority areas rather than asking patients to go to ~~private~~ <sup>private</sup> sectors & shuffling patients outside their system if they run of funds or out of personnel as most/many of professionals in HA

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are joining the private sectors which is overloaded with business from patients/clients from China. There is overall lack of trained medical staff because we are overloaded with treating ~~the~~ Chinese patients coming from area of 13 billion population whereas our training is geared to a population of 7 million in HK.

(c) of all the financial Model, I prefer the Tax model - Social Health Insurance where the government increase tax up to 17%. Everyone is treated the same and every one is entitled the same service. Those who wanted better service by choosing their own doctor in private sector can top up the fees by co-payment. Those who cannot pay in the public sector can apply for waiver <sup>under individual cases assessment</sup> instead of blanket waiver as in the existing system.

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(d) The Government + HA Hospital must transparently advised the public the amount they are to charge and subsidize for each but patient attendance, diagnostic treatment and whether the patient need to pay in addition to the charges. The private doctor, if patient choose to consult them, must publicize their charges so that the patient knows how much the Government will pay and how much he has to pay out of pocket or thro' his private insurance. In short every thing must be <sup>as</sup> transparent as possible for all concerned, Government, HA hospitals, private practitioners + hospital + private insurance companies. How these are to be achieved would rest with the administration to devise laws + mandata, arrangement for all stakeholders to follow.

I hope the above comments could  
be taken into consideration.

Yours sincerely,  
Chan Sin Hing Alice  
(CHAN SIN HING ALICE)

