



香港藥學會

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## **Policy Address and Budget Consultation**

The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong (PSHK) submits our view on Policy Address and Budget Consultation:

### **1. Public Private Partnership (PPP) programme**

Hospital Authority (HA) is a major service provider for secondary health care in Hong Kong. However, the workload is huge and thus patients may not be able to have the best pharmaceutical care for their chronic medications. Long waiting time, poor compliance and drug wastage are some major issues that we observed. PSHK suggest to implement PPP programme in community pharmacy. The deployment of repeat prescriptions scheme allows patients with stable clinical conditions to obtain drugs on monthly basis from community pharmacies. By outsourcing the dispensing and supply of repeat prescriptions to community pharmacies, it could also relieve the heavy burden of public health care sector. The community pharmacists can monitor the conditions of the patients more frequently and provide them with appropriate drug advice and better monitoring of drug compliance.

We also suggest the government to extend the coverage of Health Care Voucher to community pharmacists. Pharmacists play an important role in primary health care. This can encourage patients to seek advice from community pharmacists for better health protection.

### **2. Medications Management at Old Aged Homes**

The life expectancy of Hong Kong people is among the longest in the world. Elderly patients suffering from different chronic diseases and they usually require lots of medications for their diseases. Elderly patients living in old aged homes are under nursing care for their daily living. However, we find that the medications management at old aged homes still with room for improvement. Drug storage, drug distribution, record keeping, drug wastage and staff drug knowledge are some of the areas that require pharmacist professional expertise to improve the

current standard. Pharmacists can also review the drug profile for elderly patient to avoid possible adverse side effect, possible drug-drug interactions, etc. Since 1999, PSHK has been working closely with different stakeholders for a better medications management system at old aged homes and we also setup a pilot medications management system at Chi Lin Nunnery at 2000. We suggest the government to support and facilitate more pilot projects for old aged homes medications management.

### **3. Review the Charges for Drug Item at Specialist Out-patient Clinic**

Currently, the charge for Hospital Authority (HA) Specialist out-patient clinic is \$100 for first attendance and \$60 per subsequent attendance. The charge for medications is \$10 per drug item and cover up to 16 weeks duration. We suggest the government to review the current charges. The government can consider to increase the charges gradually and in long term, co-payment concept can be explored.

### **4. Health Insurance**

PSHK support the government to implement Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme (VHIS). Aging population and the increased drug cost and other healthcare expenses both increased the burden to the government. VHIS can build a more balanced and integrated healthcare system. We believe this can facilitate Public Private Partnership (PPP) programme which should include community pharmacy PPP programme as well.

### **5. Pharmacist Manpower**

We understand there are some newly registered pharmacists still looking for pharmacist job. We believe pharmacists play an important role in our healthcare system and under the current situation, pharmacists are underutilized. We suggest the government to enhance the projects like PPP programme, clinical pharmacy service at HA, etc. This can better utilize pharmacist professional and improve patient pharmaceutical care. In long term, the government should regular review the pharmacist manpower and professional development in order to cope with the increased demand from the public on health care services.

### **6. Pharmacy Council**

There has been a long discussion about the need to separate the ordinances to regulate pharmacists and pharmaceutical products. The advantage of an ordinance to regulate pharmacists can allow the professional to regulate and oversee the development of the pharmacy profession, to issue a code of practice for pharmacists to enhance public and patients medication safety, to uphold the practice standard, to register pharmacist and to determine the continuing professional development

requirement, and to oversee the disciplinary issues of pharmacists. Such enhancement of regulation can meet the increased concern and demand from the public about medication safety. We suggest the government to kick off the establishment of Pharmacy Council.

### **7. Redevelopment of General Out-patient Clinics**

Some of the General Out-patient Clinics (GOPC) are low-rise building and situated in some convenient locations. The government can consider to redevelop these GOPC building. The clinic can have a better and new environment and at the same time, the newly developed building can provide additional floor area for other facilities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Philip Chiu', written in a cursive style.

Philip CHIU  
President  
The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong