

PREAMBLE OUR VISION

Our vision is 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.

Turning Vision into Reality - Healthcare Reform

2. To turn our vision into reality, we need to reform our healthcare system to ensure its sustainable development and respond to the increasing healthcare needs of the community. Specifically, we want to reform the healthcare system to –

- (a) **Provide Better Care for the Community:** by providing individuals with access to lifelong, comprehensive and holistic care with particular emphasis on health-improving primary care, especially preventive care;
- (b) **Provide More Choices of Quality Services:** by reforming the healthcare market structure to provide our community with more choice of quality, efficient and cost-effective services in both the public and private sectors;
- (c) **Provide Healthcare Protection and Peace of Mind:** by enabling our community to afford lifelong healthcare protection while continuing to provide a safety net for those in need; and
- (d) **Promote Partnership for Health:** by encouraging shared responsibility for health, with individuals taking greater responsibility for personal health, and the Government providing a sustainable healthcare system for all.

Healthcare Reform Proposals

3. We aim to achieve our vision by embarking on the following reforms set out in this consultation document –

- (a) **Enhance primary care** to put greater emphasis on preventive care, reduce the need for hospital care, improve the health of our community, and contain the overall healthcare needs and expenditure of our community in the long run. (See Chapter 2)
- (b) **Promote public-private partnership in healthcare** to provide more choice of quality, efficient and cost-effective services and enhance healthy

competition and collaboration between the public and private sectors in providing healthcare services. (See Chapter 3)

- (c) **Develop electronic health record sharing** to allow individuals' health records to follow them wherever they go for healthcare to improve the quality of healthcare for the public and provide the necessary infrastructure to support the healthcare reform. (See Chapter 4)
- (d) **Strengthen public healthcare safety net** to retain and improve the current public healthcare safety net for the low-income families and underprivileged groups, while strengthening the safety net for patients struck by illnesses requiring costly healthcare. (See Chapter 5)
- (e) **Reform healthcare financing arrangements** to provide supplementary financing, apart from increased government funding, to ensure the sustainable development of the healthcare system and support the reform of the healthcare market. A range of possible supplementary financing options have been examined and their pros and cons evaluated having regard to overseas experience. (See Chapter 6 to Chapter 13)

What Are Not to be Changed?

4. We shall maintain our long-established healthcare policy that no one should be denied adequate healthcare through lack of means. While introducing changes to our healthcare system, we must also take care to preserve its current strengths and advantages that are fundamental to our common values and pivotal to the success of the reform –

- (a) **Healthcare services remain accessible and affordable:** by maintaining government funding as the primary financing source for healthcare and maintaining the public healthcare system as a safety net for the low-income families and under-privileged groups, and other members of the community in need.
- (b) **Maintain professional standards and conduct:** by maintaining a regulatory framework that ensures the high professional standards and conduct of the healthcare professions, and by strengthening the role of the Government in ensuring the proper functioning of the healthcare system as well as the quality and cost-effectiveness of services.