



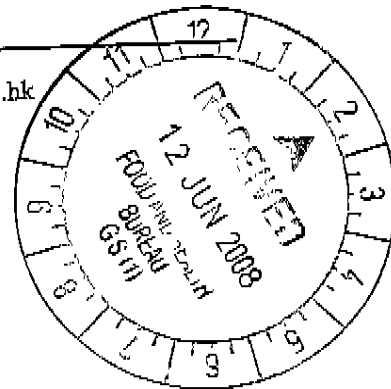
香港社會醫學學院
HONG KONG COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE
 founder College of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
Incorporated with limited liability



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**COUNCIL 2007-08***President*Dr Kathleen So
蘇碧嫻

Dr York Chow,
 Secretary for Food and Health
 Food and Health Bureau
 19/F Murray Building
 Garden Road
 Central, Hong Kong.

*Vice-President*Dr S P Mak
麥倩屏

11 June 2008

Dear Dr Chow,

*Chief Censor*Dr T H Leung
梁焯雄**Health Care Reform Consultation Document**

The Hong Kong College of Community Medicine (the College), would like to submit our comments on the Healthcare Reform Consultation Document.

*Honorary Secretary*Dr Thomas Chung
鍾偉雄

As a professional organisation consisting of specialist doctors working to improve the health of the community, the College welcomes the release of the Healthcare Reform Consultation Document by Government which aims to gather opinion from members of the public, professionals and various stakeholders, with a view to improving the health of people in Hong Kong through a better and more sustainable healthcare system.

*Honorary Treasurer*Dr S V Lo
羅思偉*Members*Dr Fung Hong
馮廣Dr Mandy Ho
何孟儀Dr William Ho
何兆輝Dr. Ronald Lam
林文健Prof Gabriel Leung
梁卓偉Dr P Y Leung
梁柏賢

The College agrees that there is a need to reform our healthcare system. We would like to see greater emphasis to be placed on the public health functions, namely that of health protection, health promotion and disease prevention. There is good evidence internationally that investment in public health remains the key to improving the health of the population. In this context, the detailed description of the healthcare financing options in the document could perhaps be better underpinned by the notion that the public health functions would be strengthened and healthcare delivery improved.



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The College also strongly supports the direction to enhance primary care, with emphasis on preventive and anticipatory care. For proven effective preventive interventions e.g. certain types of vaccination or screening programmes, considerations should be given by Government for greater or even full subsidy. Family doctors should also be given incentives to provide more health education.

We would further like to see the roles of other health care providers in primary care further enhanced. These include Chinese medicine practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, dietitians, clinical psychologists and others. In particular, how these practitioners could be facilitated to form effective multi-disciplinary team in primary care deserves greater attention.

The College supports the direction to establishing a family doctor register and development of clinical protocols. We agree that there should be quality assurance programmes for family doctors to ensure the standard of care.

Regarding the various healthcare financing options, the College is of the view that a combination of these would perhaps better suit our local needs. This includes the continuation of the current tax revenue system, application of co-payment by users and adoption of either the savings or insurance approach or both. In addition, we strongly urge the government to increase the tobacco tax and earmarked it as an important source of financing healthcare. Worldwide, one hundred million people died from tobacco use in the 20th century. Unless effective measures are implemented, tobacco will kill one billion people in the 21st century. Among these measures, price and tax measures are proven effective strategies to reduce tobacco consumption by various segments of the population, in particular young persons (World Health Organization, Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Article 6).

On the proposed insurance option, the College



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proposes that people who actively take care of their health e.g. non-smoker, should be entitled to a lower premium.

COUNCIL 2007-08*President*

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Yours sincerely

Dr Kathleen So
President
Hong Kong College of Community Medicine