



Hong Kong Private Hospitals Association

c/o Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital
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Consultation Document on Health Care Reform

Position Paper from Hong Kong Private Hospitals Association

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The Hong Kong Private Hospitals Association was founded over ten years ago and its members consist of all the twelve private hospitals in Hong Kong.

Most private hospitals are run by not-for-profit organizations either being religious groups or by private trusts.

Private hospitals provide both primary care service and specialist service on outpatient basis from the hospital sites and satellite clinics in various localities throughout Hong Kong.

The hospitals provide inpatient facilities for a wide variety of interventional, diagnostic and medical care.

The position of the Association toward the consultation paper released by Food and Health Bureau "Your Health, Your life " is **support with reservation**.

We support the direction of Healthcare Reform especially on public-private partnership.

We believe that Government should tap into the resources and skill of the private sector notably the private hospitals.

We firmly believe that the private hospital system is less burdened by immense administrative structure and is more cost efficient in providing the same service notwithstanding the cost of drugs and medicine which the Hospital Authority is able to procure at a much lower cost.



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In order to facilitate the long-term goal of a well-balanced health care system, we feel that development of private hospital services must be taken into consideration to formulate strategic principles.

For short term development say for 5 years, there should be sufficient supply of trained paramedical staff to support any growth in the number of inpatient beds and more satellite outpatient clinics. This has to be supported by training of nurses, midwives, radiographers, pharmacists, physiotherapists and other allied healthcare staff.

For medium term development say for 10 years, Government should review its land policy by Development Bureau to see whether land can be granted at discounted premium for hospital development, and plot ratio and height restriction relaxed for existing hospital sites. To hasten the process of hospital development, priority in processing environmental impact assessment, traffic impact assessment and consultations with district councils should be considered.

For long term development say from 10 years onwards, we support mandatory healthcare insurance with savings scheme. There are up-runs and downturns of the economy whether it be worldwide or local. During the lean years, the population will be reluctant to spend their resources on private healthcare especially in view of the immense differential charges between the public and private system. Mandatory Insurance will facilitate patients with cover to utilize the services of private hospitals, thus mitigating their low occupancy and redundancy in staffing during an economic downturn and preventing the overrun of the public system.

We feel that public sentiment towards private insurers reflects non-confidence. A government pledged or guaranteed scheme will generate confidence and Government will be seen to be living up to its promise.



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We support a single hospital accreditations platform agreed on after due consultation.

We support sharing of patients' medical information by an upgraded and duly safeguarded electronic platform.

We strongly support transparency of charges but with due respect towards complexity of individual cases within the same disease modality.

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