

Healthcare



- The Chinese Medicine Development Committee chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health has made recommendations to the Government on the policy and strategy to promote Chinese medicine. On these recommendations, the Government is planning to establish the first Chinese medicine hospital in Hong Kong. We are also preparing the establishment of a testing centre for Chinese medicines under the Department of Health to conduct testing and scientific research on Chinese medicines and set reference standards for the safety, quality and testing methods of Chinese medicines, thereby promoting Hong Kong as an international centre for Chinese medicines research and development.
- Preparing for the Colorectal Cancer Screening Pilot Programme, which is expected to be launched in mid-2016, so as to subsidise screening for eligible Hong Kong residents aged 61 to 70 years by phases over 3 years.
- Obtained approval from the LegCo Finance Committee in April 2015 for providing a loan of \$4.033 billion to the CUHK Medical Centre Limited for developing a non-profit making private teaching hospital. The hospital will increase the overall capacity of the healthcare system and provide patients with more choices.
- Concluded the public consultation on Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities and Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme in March and April 2015 respectively, which would lay the foundation for the legislative process in 2016-17.
- To complete by mid-2015 the review on the operation of the Hospital Authority (HA). Recommendations will also be made for ensuring HA's capability to respond to challenges arising from social changes and an ageing population. HA will formulate an action plan on the implementation of the recommendations after the release of the review report.
- Commissioned a consultant in June 2015 to study the future of the live poultry trade, including whether the sale of live poultry should be retained in Hong Kong. We aim to complete the study within 2015 and seek public views on the recommendations of the consultant thereafter.

