

MESSAGE FROM DR KO WING-MAN, BBS, JP, SECRETARY FOR FOOD AND HEALTH



Dear Citizens,

The publication of this report marks the successful conclusion of the public consultation exercise on Regulation of Private Healthcare Facilities (PHFs).

The private healthcare sector is beyond doubt an essential element of the dual-track healthcare system of Hong Kong. Revamping and modernizing the regulatory regime for PHFs will help enhance the long-term sustainability of our healthcare system. It is important to improve the transparency and accountability of private healthcare services, so that there would be greater incentive for people to make use of such services. By doing so, the public hospital system could better utilize its resources on serving those in need.

The responses received during the consultation period were encouraging. The community has rendered solid support for our proposal of having a more modernized and comprehensive regulatory control for different categories of PHFs in Hong Kong. Among the nearly 300 written submissions received and other views expressed in various occasions during the consultation period, it was generally agreed that the current regulatory regime for PHFs, which is limited to a narrow set of facilities drawn up decades ago, was not adequate amid the evolving landscape of private healthcare services. The call for a revamped regulatory regime is clear.

We have also received many insightful views and enlightening suggestions on the details of our proposals, which are summarized in this consultation report. In taking forward the proposals and ironing out details of the revamped regulatory regime, we would give due regard to these suggestions and will continue to engage relevant stakeholders.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for sharing your views by taking part in the public consultation. Your contributions have formed a solid basis for us to revamp the regulatory regime for PHFs, with a view to safeguarding public health and fostering diversity in healthcare service.

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

Dr KO Wing-man
Secretary for Food and Health
April 2016