

Hong Kong Govt injects additional \$500 M into Chinese Medicine Development Fund

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Chinese medicine to assume a more prominent role in enhancing people's health

During the Budget speech of 2023-24, the Hong Kong government has announced plans to inject an additional amount of \$500 million into the Chinese Medicine Development Fund starting from this financial year to support the commissioning of large-scale training, research and publicity projects on strategic themes and to take forward more capacity building programmes for the sector, which include making preparations for Hong Kong's first Chinese medicine hospital which is expected to commence services in 2025 and strengthening the role of Chinese medicine in the primary healthcare system.

Since the official launch of the Chinese Medicine Development Fund in 2019, more than 10 funding schemes have been rolled out to benefit various practitioners and organisations in the Chinese medicine sector.

The government put forward the Primary Healthcare Blueprint at the end of last year, under which a series of key reform initiatives for enhancing Hong Kong's primary healthcare services are set out, and prevention-oriented, community-based, family centric, and early detection and intervention strategies are adopted. The vision of the Blueprint is to improve the overall health of the general public by providing coherent and comprehensive healthcare services and establishing a sustainable healthcare system.

As introduced in the Blueprint, the government will launch the Chronic Disease Co-Care Pilot Scheme and enhancement measures to the Elderly Health Care Voucher Scheme. The government will announce the details in the third quarter of this year, and will set aside sufficient financial resources for the schemes.