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[Medical Policy] Academia Sinica Publishes 《Health Care Policy Proposal》, Spurring Present Heath Care Regime in Taiwan

gustav / July 27, 2009 02:13AM

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[Medical Policy] Academia Sinica Publishes 《Health Care Policy Proposal》, Spurring Present Heath Care Regime in Taiwan (Chinese Version)

Academia Sinica announced in its newsletter on 15th-Jul. the content of its Health Care Policy Proposal (trans. temp.) respectively in one concise version and one complete version. So far Academia Sinica has published three proposals, including Energy Policy Proposal Regarding Global Warming and Academia Sinica's Academic Competitive Analysis and Taiwan's Academic Milestones and Technology Foresight Program (trans. temp.) beside of the former, which exemplify the academic responsibility for directing social policies and forming public issues. In this proposal, Academia Sinica reviews the National Health Insurance system, suggesting the public to remark the danger of expenses control's reducing the development dynamics of bio-medical technology on the one hand, and the significance of humanity and moral education, which elevates the realization level of the three participants in National Health Insurance: the government, the medical community and the people.

The proposal reviews the health care policies and their executions during recent decades, especially on the National Health Insurance system. With its comprehending all nationals and singular insurer, i.e., Bureau of National Health Insurance, the system demonstrates its prominent achievement "comprehensive insurance, low resource consumption and healthy people" to the world. Although National Health Insurance is just the financial mechanism of health care, as the major source of national health care finance, the system has great impact on present medical resources distribution and indirectly influences medical education and talent cultivation via controlling the medical doctors' income grades, professional autonomy and occupational risk. In order to control the expenses, Bureau of National Health Insurance inaugurated the Global Budget Payment System in several departments of health care institution in 1998, and extend to the entire institution in July, 2002. Via the Global Budget Payment System, the responsibility for expenses controlling was passed from the Bureau of National Health Insurance to the medical institutions. This had obvious positive impact on expenses control, but this was observed to reduce the incentives of sci-tech development, as the result of which the market withered and the relevant industries lost capital dynamics. Although the expenses control due to Global Budget Payment System moderated the total expense, it may delay the occurrence of the value generated from novel techniques. For instance, new techniques may prevent the diseases beforehand or reduce the manufacturing cost so that what may be saved at that time is more than what can be saved now. Hence it is important to review the standards of insurance payment, including novel drugs whose development can accelerate the national economic development, and grading the service price in terms of health care quality, resource consumption and risk etc. Besides, because National Health Insurance is a third party payment system, both the medical and patients tend to abuse the medical resources; from here arises space of morality. Hence the humanity cultivation should be included in medical education; mechanism of public participation in policy formation should be emphasized; and one complete medical-hygienic information database should be established.

For the further information, please refer to Health Care Policy Proposal: <u>Concise Version</u>; or download <u>Complete Version</u>. (Both in Chinese)

Edited 2 time(s). Last edit at 07/30/2009 09:31PM by mepoadm.