Business Facilitation Advisory Committee
Wholesale and Retail Task Force

Update on the Implementation of the Pharmaceutical Licensing Applications and Movement Monitoring System (PLAMMS)

Purpose

This paper updates Members on the progress of the implementation of PLAMMS, an electronic licensing system for the import and export of pharmaceutical products.

Background

2. In late 2009, the Review Committee (RC) on the Regulation of Pharmaceutical Products in Hong Kong, after reviewing the existing regime for the regulation of pharmaceutical products, proposed a total of 75 recommendations.

3. One of the recommendations of RC is that the Department of Health (DH) should strengthen the tracking system for drugs imported for re-export purpose by setting up a record and tracking system so that when pharmaceutical products are imported for re-export purposes, DH would record the name and amount of the products and when the products are due for re-export, DH would check the information against the import licence. This will enable DH to keep track of the amount imported and the amount intended to be exported to prevent illegal diversion of drugs imported for re-export purpose into the local market.

Implementation progress

4. In 2010, a Task Force with members from the Food and Health Bureau, DH, Custom and Excise Department and Trade and Industry Department commissioned the Efficiency Unit to conduct a feasibility study on an automated system to monitor the import and export control of pharmaceutical products. The study report recommended to develop a PLAMMS to process import and export license applications

and to monitor drug movement.

5. For the development of PLAMMS, DH conducted a briefing session in December 2011 to collect views from the trade. According to the feedback received, the trade generally welcome the implementation of an electronic system to facilitate the application and processing of import and export licences.

6. The project of PLAMMS commenced in January 2012 and later in April 2012, DH conducted a workshop to collect comments from the trade on the functions of the system. With the completion of the module for enlisting the unregistered drugs that would be imported for re-export purpose by the respective traders into the system, trial run was conducted in June 2012 involving a number of selected traders with frequent import for re-export business. The trade are of the view that the system offers the convenience for them to submit and receive import and export licences online. In addition, the trade consider the system very useful because they can keep track of the details of their previous transactions and licensing records through the system.

Way forward

7. The first round of User Acceptance Test (UAT) of PLAMMS was completed at the end of July 2013 and the second round of UAT will start in early February 2014.

8. The production platform of PLAMMS for pilot run of application for import and export license of unregistered pharmaceutical products is tentatively scheduled to start in May 2014.

9. DH will continue to monitor the implementation of PLAMMS and fine tune the system with the feedback received from the trade after the pilot run.

10. Members are requested to note the implementation progress and offer comments, if any.

Department of Health
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