

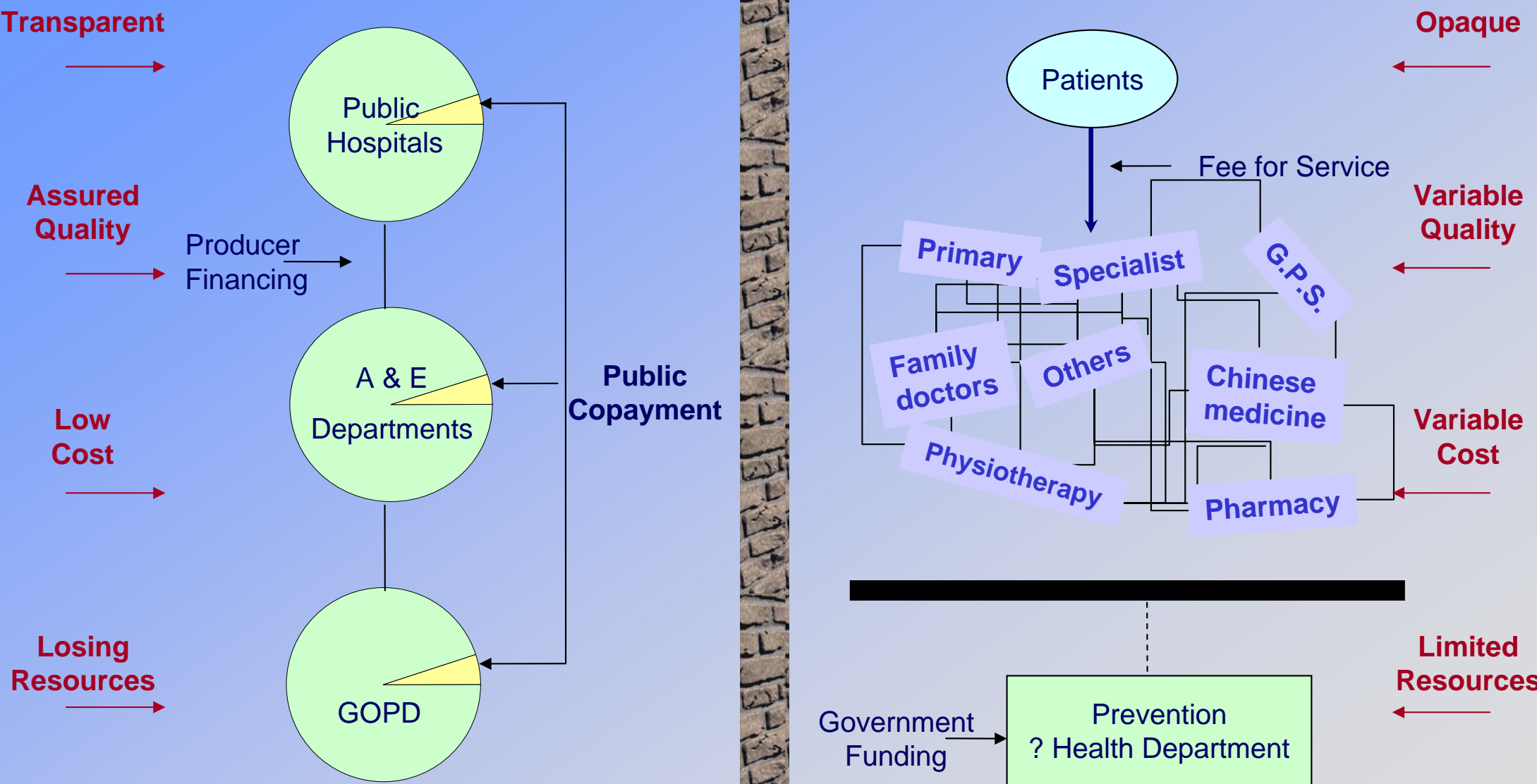
Health Care Reform and Financing

Michael Somerville
Chairman, BPF Health Care Committee

THE "STATUS QUO"

Secondary Care Government Funding

Primary Care Private Funding




Big Communication Barrier
A Two Tier System – Two Systems

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS?

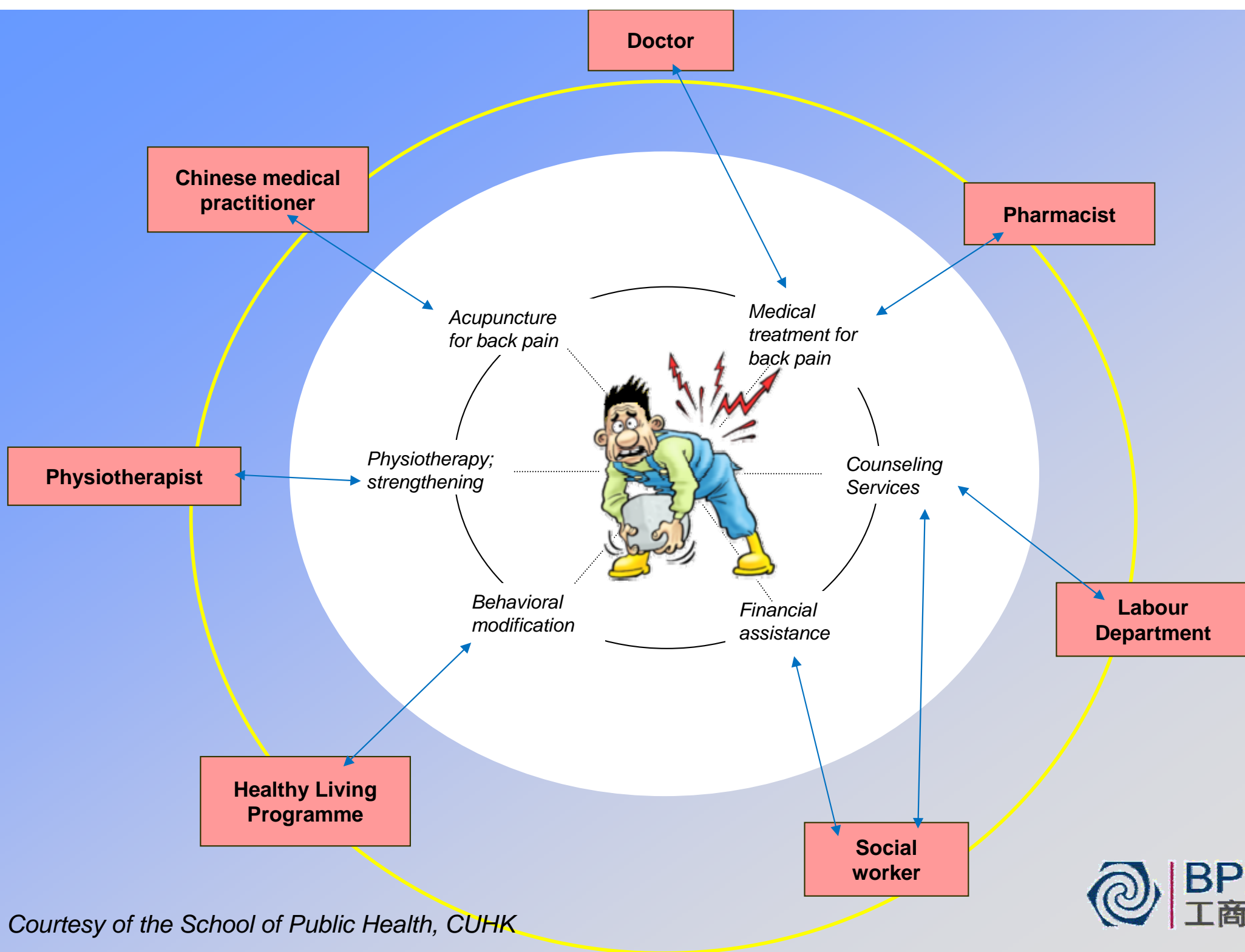
- What are we trying to achieve?
 - Put primary care first – a new approach
- How are we going to achieve it?
- How can we pay for it?

CASE STUDY

- *Mr. Wong: a 52-years old manual worker.*
 - *History of back strain and recurrent back pain.*
 - *Can't work, and has stopped going out with friends*
- 
- A cartoon illustration of a man with a distressed expression, bent over and holding his lower back with both hands. He is wearing a green long-sleeved shirt, blue overalls, and yellow boots. Red lightning bolts and jagged lines radiate from his back, symbolizing sharp pain.
- *Seeing different doctors (GOPC, private GPs, A/E and SOPC)*
 - *Only symptoms being treated: getting lots of pain killers*
 - *Has attended several physiotherapy sessions*
 - *Has had acupuncture*
 - *Is buying over-the-counter medicine*
 - *He suffered acute gastrointestinal bleeding last month after taking pain-killers prescribed by 3 different doctors whom he consulted over one week.*

WHAT CONCERNS?

- Not just a medical problem: physical, psychological, financial and social, recurrent back pain needing pain control
- No existing means to tackle these linked problems holistically
- Doctor shopping : unnecessary duplication of tests/investigations
- No shared medical records
- Multiple medications, with potential for dangerous side effects



Courtesy of the School of Public Health, CUHK

A “NEW” TEAM APPROACH TO PRIMARY CARE

Multi-disciplinary Clinics: District Based, Driven by Private Sector

- Clinics provide patients:
 - continuity of care from childhood to old age
 - strong focus on prevention and wellness care
 - integrated records
 - gatekeeping counsel on best next steps
 - finding the right specialist and secondary care
- Clinics provide practitioners:
 - Western / TCM / other skills interface
 - community nursing support
 - administration support
 - stable patient base
 - training opportunity

“TAKING PRESSURE OFF HOSPITALS”

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS?

- What are we trying to achieve?
 - Put primary care first – a new approach
- How are we going to achieve it?
 - A new system of governance
- How can we pay for it?

REPORT OF WORKING PARTY ON PRIMARY CARE (Dec 1990)

“A statutory Primary Health Care Authority with some degree of financial autonomy and with the Department of Health as its executive arm should be established to oversee the delivery of primary health care in Hong Kong.”

A NEW SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE

A Primary Care Authority

- Manage priorities
- Quality control
- Output standards
- Cost control
- Pricing
- Human resources

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 - A new system of governance
- How can we pay for it?
 - A new system of financing

FOUR PRINCIPLES FOR FINANCING

- Universal Access
- Self Responsibility
- Risk Pooling
- Mandatory

BASIC FUNDING OPTIONS

- Taxation
 - Share of GST
- Social Insurance
 - Earnings related or
 - Community rated insurance
- Mandatory Private Insurance
 - Community wide

Thank You