



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**28<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

### **BERMUDA HEALTH COUNCIL ANNOUNCES THE PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL HEALTH ACCOUNTS REPORT 2010:**

**Bermuda Health System Finance and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2008-2009**

**-Report available at: [http://www.bhec.bm/resources/health\\_stats.html](http://www.bhec.bm/resources/health_stats.html)-**

**(Hamilton, Bermuda, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010)** – The Bermuda Health Council (BHeC) today announces the release of the first National Health Accounts Report 2010, a new report that offers a comprehensive review of the growth in Bermuda’s health system financing and expenditure from 2004 to 2009. The report combines publicly-available data on health system finance and expenditure from the Bermuda Government and the Bermuda Hospitals Board, with previously unpublished private sector data sourced from health insurance claims and charitable non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

This inaugural report presents the financing and expenditure accounts for Bermuda’s health system detailing the “sources of funds” (financing) and the “uses of funds” (expenditures).

The report identifies as the sources of financing for the health system:

- the Ministry of Health’s consolidated fund spending allocation,
- all health insurers,
- out of pocket payments, and
- charitable NGOs.

The sectors where those funds are used or spent are:

- the Ministry of Health
- the Department of Health,
- the Bermuda Hospitals Board,
- physicians, dentists, other providers and services,
- prescription drugs,
- overseas care, and
- health insurance administration.

The report analyzes the most recent fiscal year with full data availability: March 2008 to April 2009. Each health system sub-sector is presented in terms of its dollar level of financing or expenditure, and its percentage contribution to total financing and expenditure.

The report then analyzes the growth in health finance and expenditure from the period 2004 to 2009.

Key metrics for the health system are presented in tables in the report, such as:

- Total health system expenditure for 2008-2009 – BD\$557.7 million (Table 1, page 3)
- Health expenditure share of GDP – 9.2% (Table 5, page 11)
- Per capita health expenditure 2009 - BD\$ 8,661.00 (Table 5, page 11)
  
- Public sector share of 2009 health financing – 27.9% (Table 1, page 3)
- Private sector share of 2009 health financing – 72.1% (Table 1, page 3)
  
- Health insurance share of health financing 2004-2009 - 53.4% (Table 2, page 7)
- Growth in overseas care 2004-2009 – 106.2% (Table 4, page 10)
- Total value of 2009 physician expenditure – BD\$ 59.3 million (Table 1, page 3)
  
- Average year over year growth in health system expenditure 2004-2009 – 8.1% (Table 5, page 11)

The report concludes by summarizing its key findings: the fastest growing area of expenditure is overseas care, and overall health system expenditure is growing at an average 8.1% compound annual rate, slightly faster than nominal GDP, bringing into focus the issue of the sustainability of the recent rate of growth.

The report was developed as part of the BHeC's role in monitoring the health system. The report provides invaluable information on health care costs and expenditure trends that will aid policy makers throughout the healthcare sector to make informed, evidence-based decisions.

The report serves as an information resource for the Government, the Ministry of Health and private sector health insurance providers, including employers. Publication of this report ensures the public has access to information about the costs of Bermuda's health system. The report can also be accessed by Bermuda's international partners.

Linda Merritt, Chairman of the Bermuda Health Council, lauded the report saying: "The Bermuda Health Council continues to deliver on its strategic and corporate objectives. The National Health Accounts 2010 report brings new information to our health system, combining financial data from all sub-sectors to present a comprehensive view of the current cost of healthcare in Bermuda."

Dr. Jennifer Attride-Stirling, Chief Executive Officer of the Bermuda Health Council, commented: "The information provided in the Health Accounts report represents a performance report on



the efficiency of our health system. Such information is vital to our health system policy makers and planners, who require this data to plan now for the health system the island will have in the future. This report provides information that is essential to the development of BHeC's evidence-based policy recommendations regarding the sustainability of Bermuda's health system to the Ministry of Health."

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**About Bermuda Health Council**

Established in January 2006, the Bermuda Health Council is tasked with overseeing Bermuda's healthcare system to ensure its sustainability. Staffed by a team of eight professionals with over 100 years of experience in administration, healthcare and finance, the Health Council draws upon the expertise and experience of its 15 Council members to regulate, coordinate and enhance the delivery of health services in Bermuda.

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