

Press Release

It has come to the notice of the Medical Council that some unscrupulous doctors are adopting the irresponsible manner of providing medical treatment through beauty parlours without revealing their identity to the patients. The receipts are not issued by the doctor, and medicines are dispensed without the doctor's name on the label. By so doing, these doctors are seeking to hide behind the beauty parlours and evade the regulatory powers of the Council in case anything goes wrong.

2. When legal action is taken by the victims, or when disciplinary action is taken by the Medical Council, these doctors can deny that they were the doctors who provided the treatment or prescribed the medicine. Victims in such situations often have difficulty in proofing the identity of the doctor who provided treatment or prescribed medicine to them. There may also be difficulty for the victims to recognize the appearance of the treating doctor many years afterwards.

3. The Council would like to impress upon members of the public that care should be taken before undergoing medical treatment from beauty parlours claiming to provide service of registered doctors. They should ascertain the identity of the doctor who provides the medical treatment, and obtain proof showing that the treatment has been provided by the doctor (such as a receipt issued by the doctor). If medicine is dispensed, it is a mandatory requirement that a registered doctor who dispenses medicines to a patient must label the medicine with his name, the patient's name, and the name and dosage of the medicine. Patients should not accept unlabelled medicines..

4. The list of registered doctors is published on the Medical Council's website (<http://www.mchk.org.hk/doctor/index.htm>) and the public can verify whether a person is a registered doctor from the list. If in doubt, they should check with the list to see whether the purported doctors are registered or not.

5. If medication is dispensed in connection with the medical treatment by the doctor, either directly or indirectly, it should be properly labelled with the following information set out in the Code of Professional Conduct for the Guidance of Registered Medical Practitioners issued by the Council:

- (a) name of prescribing doctor or proper means of identifying him;
- (b) full name of the patient;

- (c) date of dispensing;
- (d) name of the medicine;
- (e) method of administration;
- (f) dosage to be administered; and
- (g) precautions where applicable.

6. The above precautions will be helpful in case there is any problem with the medical treatment provided by doctors through beauty parlours, or if the patients wish to seek second opinion or consultation from other doctors in connection with the treatment.

Medical Council of Hong Kong

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