

Practice without a Valid Practising Certificate

The Medical Council has recently discussed about the issue of practice without valid practising certificates by doctors. To draw members of the profession to the relevant statutory requirement, the Council, on the recommendation of its Ethics Committee, decided that the Code of Professional Conduct should be amended by adding the following paragraph in Part I A “Introduction” of the Code, immediately preceding the final paragraph:-

“A doctor must comply with the law governing the practice of medicine. Section 20A(1) of the Medical Registration Ordinance provides that “a registered medical practitioner shall not practise medicine, surgery or midwifery in Hong Kong, or any branch of medicine or surgery in Hong Kong, unless he is the holder of a practising certificate which is then in force”.

The revised version of Part I A is now available at the Council’s website at <http://www.mchk.org.hk/code.htm>.

By a notification letter of 25 September 2013 to all individual doctors, the Council has reminded doctors to make timely application for renewal of the practising certificates, and announced that for applications made by 15 November 2013, the practising certificates would be issued by 31 December 2013 as far as possible.

For doctors who will be practising beyond the expiry of the current annual practising certificate on 31 December 2013, please make your application for renewal of the practising certificate as soon as possible by submitting the application form and settling the prescribed fee as required in the notification letter.

Section 19(1)(b) of the Medical Registration Ordinance provides that the Council may order the removal from the General Register of the name of any person who has not, before 30 June of a year, obtained his retention certificate for that year.

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