

**The Medical Council of Hong Kong**  
**Rules on Quotable Appointments**  
(with effect from 1 January 2021)

1. The Medical Council of Hong Kong has a duty to protect members of the public and patients from misleading information.

2. To protect members of the public and patients from misleading information, doctors are required to comply with the following rules in quoting their appointments for the purpose of professional practice in Hong Kong:

- (a) Appointments made by the Hospital Authority, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, the University of Hong Kong and the Department of Health are quotable.
- (b) “Chief Medical Executive” appointed by private healthcare facilities<sup>footnote</sup> licensed with the Department of Health under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Chapter 633, Laws of Hong Kong) is quotable.
- (c) For appointments by
  - (i) private healthcare facilities licensed with the Department of Health under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Chapter 633, Laws of Hong Kong), other than the one set out in subparagraph (b), and
  - (ii) medical clinics registered with the Department of Health under the Medical Clinics Ordinance (Chapter 343, Laws of Hong Kong),

the private healthcare facility / medical clinic concerned has to satisfy the Medical Council (through its Education and Accreditation Committee) that it has an established and objective system of offering appointments which is acceptable to the Medical Council, and apply for the Medical Council’s approval for quotability of individual appointments, before such appointments could be quoted.

- (d) Honorary appointments (e.g. honorary clinical professor, honorary clinical associate professor, honorary professor, honorary associate professor, honorary assistant professor, tutor, clinical research associate, etc) by the medical faculties of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong made for the purpose of teaching, research or clinical work in Western medicine are quotable. Honorary appointments by the Hospital Authority, the Department of Health, private healthcare facilities or medical clinics (subject to subparagraph (c) being satisfied) are quotable only if they are related to clinical work in Western medicine.
- (e) Appointments by private institutions other than those stipulated in subparagraph (c) above are not quotable.
- (f) Appointments by institutions / organizations outside Hong Kong are not quotable.

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<sup>footnote</sup> The meaning of *private healthcare facility* is stipulated in section 3 of the PHFO as follows:

- (1) A private healthcare facility is any of the following facilities that is not managed or controlled by a specified authority—
  - (a) a hospital;
  - (b) a day procedure centre;
  - (c) a clinic;
  - (d) a health services establishment,other than a day procedure centre, clinic or health services establishment primarily used for teaching or research relating to medicine or dentistry and that is managed or controlled by a scheduled university.
- (2) Also, a private healthcare facility does not include any premises that are not normally used for medical purposes but are temporarily used for emergency or rescue purposes.

- (g) In quoting those appointments which are allowed to be quoted by the Medical Council, doctors must use the actual titles / appointments / honorary professorship they hold. A doctor not actually appointed at the rank of professor (e.g. assistant professor, associate professor, research assistant professor etc) is not allowed to call himself/herself “Professor” and use the prefix “Professor” as if he/she were employed in the rank of “Professor”.
  - (h) Only bona-fide and current appointments can be quoted (i.e. a previously held appointment is not quotable.).
3. The above rules apply to any form of communication with the public and patients in connection with a doctor’s professional practice in Hong Kong, including but not limited to visiting card, stationeries, practice websites, doctors directories, etc.
  4. The above rules do not apply to circumstances unconnected with a doctor’s professional practice.
  5. “Emeritus Professor” satisfies paragraph 2 of the Rules on Quotable Appointments and can therefore be quoted as it is a lifetime appointment and is held by the appointee even after his/her retirement.
  6. The above rules will be reviewed in 12 months’ time after implementation.