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Rules on Quotable Appointments

The Medical Council has decided on the recommendation of its Education and Accreditation Committee (“EAC”) to revise the “Rules on Quotable Appointments” (“QA Rules”), which will take effect from 1 January 2021.

Background

The prevailing QA Rules have been implemented by the Medical Council since 1 December 2014. Under the QA Rules, appointments made by the Hospital Authority, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, the University of Hong Kong and the Department of Health are quotable by registered medical practitioners in their professional practice. As for a private hospital, nursing home, maternity home or medical clinic, it has to satisfy the Medical Council that it has an established and objective system of offering appointments which is acceptable to the Medical Council and be granted approval by the Medical Council for quotability of individual appointments before such appointments are quotable by doctors.

Revised QA Rules

With the passage of the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633) (“PHFO”) in November 2018, which provides for a new regulatory regime for private healthcare facilities, including private hospitals, day procedure centres, clinics and health services establishments, private hospitals will start to be regulated under the PHFO with effect from 1 January 2021 and the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance (Cap. 165) will be repealed on the same day. On the recommendation of its EAC, the Medical Council has decided to revise the QA Rules to cover private healthcare facilities licensed under the PHFO. The revised QA Rules will take effect from 1 January 2021. They will be reviewed in 12 months’ time and be further revised upon repeal of the Medical Clinics Ordinance (Cap. 343) in the future.

Under the revised QA Rules, the appointment of Chief Medical Executive by a private healthcare facility, which is a statutory requirement under the PHFO, is quotable. If a private healthcare facility would like to apply for quotability of other appointments made by it, it has to apply to the Medical Council for acceptance of its appointment system and quotability of such appointments. After approval is granted by the Medical Council, its appointments can be quoted by doctors in their professional practice.

The revised QA Rules are appended below for information of and compliance by members of the profession.

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^{footnote} licensed with the Department of Health under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Chapter 633, Laws of Hong Kong) is quotable.
 - (b)(c) For appointments by
 - (i) ~~private hospitals, nursing homes and maternity homes registered with the Department of Health under the Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Maternity Homes Registration Ordinance (Chapter 165, Laws of Hong Kong), and 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 hospital/ nursing home/ maternity home~~ 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 hospitals, nursing homes, maternity homes~~ private healthcare facilities or medical clinics (subject to subparagraph (b) 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 (b) above are not quotable.
 - (f) Appointments by institutions / organizations outside Hong Kong are not quotable.
 - (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”.

(g)(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.

footnote

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.

The purpose of the QA Rules is to ensure that patients and the public will be protected from misleading information which may improperly influence their choice of doctors for consultation. They should be read in conjunction with section 5 “Professional communication and information dissemination” of the Code of Professional Conduct.

Applications under the QA Rules should be made in accordance with the Guidelines on Quotability of Appointments by Private Healthcare Facilities and Medical Clinics (“QA Guidelines”) using the designated application form available on the Medical Council’s website at <https://www.mchk.org.hk/english/guideline/appointment.html>. The names of the private healthcare facilities and medical clinics with their appointment systems accepted by the Medical Council and their approved quotable appointments will be included in the “List of Quotable Appointments by Private Healthcare Facilities and Medical Clinics accepted under the Rules on Quotable Appointments” (“QA List”) published on the above website.

If there are any subsequent additions of appointments, or changes in titles of or criteria for the quotable appointments, the private healthcare facilities or medical clinics concerned have to apply to the Medical Council for quotability of such appointments before they could be quoted by individual doctors.

The QA List will be updated from time to time. Members of the profession are advised to check the quotability of any appointments before quoting them for the purpose of professional practice in Hong Kong.

Guidelines on Conduct of Online Continuing Medical Education (“CME”) Activities

It has come to the notice of the Medical Council and its EAC that in view of the outbreak of COVID-19 epidemic, many CME Programme Providers and organizers have considered to deliver online CME activities in place of conventional CME activities to ensure social distancing. On the recommendation of the EAC, the Medical Council has approved that with effect from 1 April 2020, online CME activities can be organized by CME Programme Providers and accredited by CME Programme Accreditors subject to compliance with the following guidelines.

The Medical Council of Hong Kong

CME Programme for Practising Doctors who are not taking CME Programme for Specialists - Guidelines on Conduct of Online CME Activities (with effect from 1 April 2020)

- (i) The educational outcome of the CME activities should not be compromised with the change of mode of delivery to online means.
- (ii) There should be proper registration procedure and means to verify the identity of participating doctors.
- (iii) There should be proper means to ensure attendance and participation, such as the requirement of completing a quiz with pass mark for CME lectures.
- (iv) There should be a Q&A session for the CME activity.
- (v) Attendance record certified by the CME Programme Providers or other organizers (whose activities have been approved by the CME Programme Accreditors) should be made available after the activity. The CME Programme Administrators should record and pass the CME points to the Medical Council on a yearly basis.
- (vi) CME activities through online means are awarded CME points in the same manner as physical attendance at CME activities.
- (vii) Unless under the current outbreak of COVID-19 or other special circumstances, CME Programme Providers should continue to organize conventional CME activities to meet the needs of those doctors who would like to attend CME activities in person.
- (viii) Confidentiality and privacy must be observed, and that the teaching materials should be confined to participating doctors who take part in the relevant CME activities.
- (ix) The above guidelines on online CME activities will be reviewed in 12 months’ time.

Recorded CME lectures can also be delivered online as self-study CME under paragraph 3.3 of the Council’s Guidelines on Credit Point System with effect from 1 April 2020, subject to the compliance with the above guidelines, including the requirement of completing a quiz with pass mark under item (iii) of the guidelines but excluding the requirement under item (iv) of the guidelines (i.e. “There should be a Q&A session for the CME activity”). Doctors participating in recorded CME lectures online can only be granted CME points for self-study if they have not attended the same live CME lectures.

The Medical Council has informed the CME Programme Providers, Accreditors and Administrators of the above guidelines and promulgated the guidelines on its website at <https://www.mchk.org.hk/english/cme/programme.html>.

Compliance with CME Requirement for Specialists

The Medical Council would like to remind specialists of the statutory requirement for compliance with the CME requirement for the relevant specialties under section 20L of the Medical Registration Ordinance (“MRO”) by the end of each CME cycle, and to explain about the actions which would be taken by the Medical Council against specialists who fail to comply with the CME requirement.

According to section 20L of the MRO, “A *registered medical practitioner whose name is included in the Specialist Register shall undergo such continuing medical education relevant to the specialty under which his name is included in the Specialist Register as may be determined by the Academy of Medicine.*”

As promulgated in the Council's Newsletter Issue No. 6 of May 2002, the EAC will in general accept notification from the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (“HKAM”) as sufficient evidence of a specialist's failure to comply with the CME requirement and will proceed to recommend to the Medical Council under section 20N(1) of the MRO removal of a specialist's name from the Specialist Register (“SR”) permanently. Nevertheless, the specialist concerned may request the EAC in writing within the statutory time limit to review its decision under section 20N(3) of the MRO.

The Medical Council has required the HKAM to report promptly after each CME cycle any cases of non-compliance with the CME requirement under section 20L of the MRO (i.e. the minimum CME requirement of 90 points in a 3-year cycle as determined by the HKAM), including those cases of specialists on remedial programme of the HKAM, so that necessary action can be taken under the MRO. On the recommendation of the EAC, the Medical Council has decided in principle that for a specialist who fails to meet the CME requirement but attains at least two-thirds of the required CME points by the end of the CME cycle and can produce evidence that he/she is going to make up for the deficiency in CME points by joining the remedial programme of the HKAM, order will be made for removal of his/her name from the SR permanently but the removal order will be suspended for a period of up to 12 months from the end date of the last CME cycle on the condition that the specialist shall provide the Medical Council by the end of the suspension period with satisfactory proof from the HKAM that he/she has already made up for the deficiency in CME points. However, the Medical Council wishes to emphasize that each case will be considered on its own merits.

The Medical Council would also like to point out that for a specialist whose removal order is suspended, his/her name remains on the SR and that he/she can continue to practise as a specialist during the suspension period. If the specialist concerned can make up for the deficiency in CME points and provide the Medical Council with satisfactory proof from the HKAM by the end of the suspension period, the aforesaid condition will be lifted. However, if the specialist concerned does not fulfill the aforesaid condition by the end of the suspension period, the Medical Council may proceed to exercise its power under section 19B(2) of the MRO and remove his/her name from the SR permanently, on the basis that he/she will not be debarred from making a fresh application for inclusion in the SR when he/she becomes suitable for such inclusion.

Quotable Qualifications

According to section 5 “Professional communication and information dissemination” of the Code of Professional Conduct, doctors may quote those quotable qualifications approved by the Medical Council in dissemination of service information to the public. The Guidelines on Quoting of Qualifications and the updated List of Quotable Qualifications (“the List”) are promulgated on the Medical Council’s website at <http://www.mchk.org.hk/english/guideline/qualification.html>.

Additions to the List of Quotable Qualifications

Since January 2020, the Medical Council, on the recommendation of the EAC, has approved additions to the List as set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

(i) Addition of quotable qualifications under the generally approved category

The Medical Council has approved the following qualifications for inclusion in the List under the generally approved category:

Title of Qualification	Abbreviation	Chinese Title	Date of Approval by the Medical Council
1. Postgraduate Diploma in Surgical Sciences, University of Edinburgh	PGDip in Surgical Sciences (Edin)	愛丁堡大學 外科科學深造文憑	8 January 2020
2. Certificate of Completion of Training in Dermatology, General Medical Council	CCT (Derm) (GMC)	英國醫學總會 皮膚學培訓結業證書	1 April 2020
3. Fellow of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore (Dermatology)	FAMS (Dermatology)	新加坡醫學專科學院 院士 (皮膚科)	3 July 2020
4. Graduate Diploma in Family Medicine, National University of Singapore	GDFM (Singapore)	新加坡國立大學 家庭醫學文憑	3 July 2020
5. Postgraduate Diploma in Diabetes, Cardiff University	PgDip Diabetes (Cardiff)	卡迪夫大學 糖尿治理深造文憑	3 July 2020
6. Diploma of Membership of the Faculty of Travel Medicine, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow	MFTM RCPS (Glasg)	格拉斯哥皇家醫學院 旅遊醫學科學系院員	2 December 2020
7. Diploma in Travel Medicine, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow	DipTravMed RCPS (Glasg)	格拉斯哥皇家醫學院 旅遊醫學文憑	2 December 2020

(ii) Addition of quotable qualifications under the specifically approved category

The Medical Council has also approved the following qualifications for inclusion in the List under the specifically approved category:

Title of Qualification	Abbreviation	Chinese Title	Date of Approval by the Medical Council	Reference
1. Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of California, Irvine	PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology (UCI)	加州大學爾灣分校 藥理及毒理學 哲學博士	5 February 2020	MC/QQ/06/19
2. Doctor of Philosophy, The University of Hong Kong	PhD (HK)	香港大學哲學博士	3 July 2020	MC/QQ/01/20

The qualifications can only be quoted by those applicants to whom the approvals are given.

Application for quoting research master and doctoral degrees

Doctors are advised that individual approval is required for quoting the specifically approved qualifications (i.e. research master and doctoral degrees other than “Master of Surgery” and “Doctor of Medicine”) included in the List. Applications for quoting the specifically approved qualifications should be made to the EAC of the Medical Council.

Renaming of a Specialty in the Specialist Register

The Education and Accreditation Committee of the Medical Council at its meeting held on 19 June 2020 accepted the recommendation of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine to rename the specialty “Paediatric Immunology & Infectious Diseases (兒童免疫及傳染病科)” (S56) as “Paediatric Immunology, Allergy and Infectious Diseases (兒童免疫、過敏及傳染病科)” in the Specialist Register. Concerned specialists have been advised to update their stationeries accordingly.

Statistics on Complaints / Inquiries Handled in 2019

Table 1 - Complaints received by the Medical Council

Number of Complaints Received	<u>2015</u> 493	<u>2016</u> 628*	<u>2017</u> 496	<u>2018</u> 639*	<u>2019</u> 3 286*
(A) Allegations by category					
1. Conviction in Court	31	53	57	55	47
(a) Failure to keep proper record of dangerous drugs	(3)	(3)	(2)	(2)	(0)
(b) Others	(28)	(50)	(55)	(53)	(47)
2. Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	289	330	321	446	438 [#]
3. Issuing misleading / false medical certificates	24	24	36	29	748
4. Practice promotion	10	7	13	33	9
5. Misleading, unapproved description and announcement	9	150	9	6	6
6. Improper / indecent behaviour to patients	5	8	7	17	17
7. Abuse of professional position to further improper association with patients	2	2	-	-	-
8. Fitness to practise	-	3	-	-	-
9. Abuse of professional confidence	-	-	2	2	-
10. Depreciation of other medical practitioners	1	2	-	1	-
11. Sharing fee and improper financial transaction	-	-	2	3	5
12. Failure to maintain proper medical records	-	-	11	6	75
13. Mishandling of patient's personal data	-	-	3	1	19
14. Improper delegation of medical duties to unregistered persons	-	-	-	-	2
15. Other minor issues unrelated to professional responsibility	122	49	35	40	1 920
(B) Progress of complaints as at 31 December 2019					
1. Dismissed by the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the relevant Preliminary Investigation Committee ("PIC") in consultation with a lay member as being frivolous or groundless	325	205	149	19	-
2. Could not be pursued further because the complainants failed to provide further information or statutory declaration or the complaints were anonymous or withdrawn, etc.	30	38	34	26	4
3. Under consideration by the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the relevant PIC in consultation with a lay member	-	6	51	151	3 120
4. Held in abeyance	1	4	1	-	2
5. Being considered at the PIC meetings	6	27	75	166	138
6. Dismissed by the relevant PIC	90	275	136	228	4
7. Referred to the Medical Council for no disciplinary inquiry	20	41	36	35	15
8. Referred to the Medical Council for no pre-registration inquiry	-	1	2	1	-
9. Referred to the Medical Council / inquiry panel for disciplinary inquiry	19	30	10	10	1
10. Referred to the Medical Council for restoration inquiry	1	-	1	-	-
11. Referred to the Medical Council for pre-registration inquiry	1	1	-	-	2
12. Referred to the Health Committee for hearing	-	-	1	3	-

Remarks:

* The net number of complaints received in 2016 was 493 as there were 136 complaints on the same incident against the same registered medical practitioner received in 2016. The net number of complaints received in 2018 was 506 as there were 74 complaints on the same incident against a registered medical practitioner and 61 complaints on another incident against 3 registered medical practitioners received in 2018 respectively. Among the 3 286 complaint cases received in 2019, 2 742 cases can be consolidated into 11 groups of same / very similar complaints against 11 doctors. As such, the net number of complaints received in 2019 was 555.

The breakdown of cases on "Disregard of professional responsibility to patients" in 2019 is as follows:

- (a) Inappropriate prescription of drugs – 149 cases
- (b) Failure / unsatisfactory result of treatment / surgery, failure to properly / timely diagnose illness and disagreement with doctor's medical opinion – 117 cases
- (c) Conducting unnecessary or inappropriate treatment / surgery – 63 cases
- (d) Doctor's unprofessional attitude / Doctor-patient communication – 50 cases
- (e) Failure to give proper medical advice / explanation – 22 cases
- (f) Other treatment-related issues – 37 cases

Table 2 - Work of the PICs of the Medical Council

Nature	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
					Deemed PIC	New PIC
1. Total number of cases referred to the PIC meetings	129	154	368	242	224*	249*
2. Total number of cases referred to the Medical Council for no disciplinary inquiry / pre-registration inquiry after the PIC meetings	35	38	53	41	28 [#]	23 [#]
3. Total number of cases referred to the Medical Council / inquiry panel for disciplinary inquiry / restoration inquiry / pre-registration inquiry after the PIC meetings	57	57	38	39	26 [#]	13 [#]
4. Total number of cases referred to the Health Committee for hearing after the PIC meetings	1	-	1	1	-	2

Remarks:

* This figure included those cases received before 2019. Cases referred to and considered by the PICs in 2019 fell under the following categories:

	No. of Cases	
	Deemed PIC	New PIC
(a) Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	154	177
• <i>Inappropriate prescription of drugs</i>	29	144
• <i>conducting unnecessary or inappropriate treatment / surgery</i>	74	13
• <i>failure to properly / timely diagnose illness</i>	24	3
• <i>doctor's unprofessional attitude / doctor-patient communication</i>	7	10
• <i>failure / unsatisfactory results of treatment / surgery</i>	14	1
• <i>failure to give proper medical advice / explanation</i>	2	3
• <i>disagreement with doctor's medical opinion</i>	-	2
• <i>other treatment-related issues</i>	4	1
(b) Conviction in court	31	31
(c) Practice promotion / Misleading, unapproved description and announcement	14	7
(d) Fee dispute	9	11
(e) Issuing misleading / false medical certificates	7	7
(f) Improper / indecent behaviour to patients	1	5
(g) Failure to maintain proper medical records	3	1
(h) Mishandling of patient's personal data	1	-
(i) Abuse of professional confidence	-	1
(j) Sharing fee and improper financial transaction	-	1
(k) Miscellaneous	4	8
Total :	224	249

[#] Cases referred by the PICs to the Medical Council / inquiry panel in 2019 are classified as follows:

	No. of Cases	
	Deemed PIC	New PIC
(A) Recommended for no disciplinary inquiry		
Conviction in court	28	23
• <i>careless driving</i>	24	22
• <i>crossing continuous double white lines</i>	1	-
• <i>dangerous driving</i>	1	-
• <i>failing to file return for the importation of a motor vehicle</i>	1	-
• <i>licensee being liable for an offence committed in respect of an irradiating apparatus</i>	1	-
• <i>riding / possessing bicycle within country park or special area without consent of the Authority</i>	-	1
(B) Recommended for disciplinary inquiry		
(a) Conviction in court	3	6
• <i>committing an act outraging public decency</i>	-	1
• <i>dangerous drugs related conviction</i>	-	1
• <i>driving a motor vehicle with alcohol concentration in breath above the prescribed limit</i>	2	3
• <i>indecent assault</i>	-	1
• <i>operating a medical clinic in breach of a condition of the license issued by the Singapore Ministry of Health</i>	1	-

	No. of Cases	
	Deemed PIC	New PIC
(b) Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	19	2
• <i>conducting unnecessary or inappropriate treatment / surgery</i>	4	-
• <i>failure to give proper medical advice / explanation</i>	-	1
• <i>failure to properly / timely diagnose illness</i>	5	-
• <i>failure / unsatisfactory results of treatment / surgery</i>	2	-
• <i>inappropriate prescription of drugs</i>	7	1
• <i>other treatment-related issues</i>	1	-
(c) Practice promotion / Misleading, unapproved description and announcement	4	1
(d) Issuing misleading / false medical certificates	-	1
(e) Improper / indecent behaviour to patients	-	1
(C) Recommended for pre-registration inquiry		
Found guilty of misconduct by local medical schools	-	2
Total :	54	36

Table 3 - Work statistics of the PICs of the Medical Council in 2019

(A) Deemed PIC

	Quarter				Total
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	
No. of PIC Meetings	3	3	3	3	12
No. of cases considered	55	54	60	55	224
No. of cases dismissed (%)	38 (69.1%)	45 (83.3%)	49 (81.7%)	38 (69.1%)	170 (75.9%)
No. of cases referred to the Medical Council / inquiry panel (%)	17 (30.9%)	9 (16.7%)	11 (18.3%)	17 (30.9%)	54* (24.1%)
No. of cases referred to the Health Committee (%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

* Among the 54 cases, 28 cases were of minor offences and the Medical Council accepted the PIC's recommendation that no disciplinary inquiry was to be held (Please see details in Table 2).

(B) New PIC

	Quarter				Total
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sept	Oct-Dec	
No. of PIC Meetings	3	3	3	3	12
No. of cases considered	16	35	166	32	249
No. of cases dismissed (%)	16 (100%)	31 (88.6%)	149 (89.8%)	15 (46.9%)	211 (84.7%)
No. of cases referred to the Medical Council / inquiry panel (%)	0 (0%)	4 (11.4%)	15 (9.0%)	17 (53.1%)	36* (14.5%)
No. of cases referred to the Health Committee (%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (1.2%)	0 (0%)	2 (0.8%)

* Among the 36 cases, 23 cases were of minor offences and the Medical Council accepted the PIC's recommendation that no disciplinary inquiry was to be held (Please see details in Table 2).

Table 4 - Disciplinary inquiries conducted in 2019

Nature	No. of cases involved	Decision
(A) Conviction in court		
(a) Driving a motor vehicle with alcohol concentration in breath above the prescribed limit and careless driving	(2)	Warning letter (gazetted)
(b) Driving while disqualified and using a vehicle without third party insurance	(1)	Removed for 1 month (suspended for 12 months)
(c) Failure to keep a register of dangerous drugs in the specified form	(3)	Removed for 1 month (suspended for 6 months)
	(1)	Removed for 1 month (suspended for 18 months)
	(1)	Removed for 1 month (suspended for 24 months)
	(3)	Removed for 2 months (suspended for 12 months)
(d) Indecent assault	(1)	Removed for 3 months
Sub-total :		12
(B) Disregard of professional responsibility to patients		
	(1)	Warning letter (not gazetted)
	(2)	Warning letter (gazetted)
	(1)	Reprimanded
	(6)	Removed for 1 month (suspended for 12 months)
	(2)	Removed for 2 months (suspended for 12 months)
	(2)	Removed for 2 months (suspended for 18 months)
	(1)	Removed for 3 months (suspended for 24 months)
	(1)	Removed for 6 months (suspended for 36 months)
	(1)	Removed for 1 month
	(4)	Not guilty
	(3)	Disciplinary inquiries to continue in 2020
	Sub-total :	
(C) Issue misleading / false medical certificates	(1)	Removed for 1 month (suspended for 24 months)
Sub-total :		1
(D) Practice promotion / Quotable qualification		
	(2)	Removed for 1 month (suspended for 12 months)
	(1)	Removed for 3 months (suspended for 12 months)
	(1)	Removed for 3 months (suspended for 18 months)
Sub-total :		4
Total :		41

Table 5 - Figures on appeal cases

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
No. of appeals lodged during the year	1	0	2	2	0
No. of appeal cases carried forward from previous years	4	0	0	2	2
Total no. of appeal cases in progress in the year:	5	0	2	4	2

Results of appeal cases concluded in 2019:

	<u>No. of cases</u>
(a) Dismissed by Court of Appeal	1
(b) Allowed by Court of Appeal	1
(c) Appeal withdrawn	0
Total :	2

Reminders

Reporting of offences punishable with imprisonment

A doctor convicted of any offence punishable with imprisonment is liable to disciplinary proceedings of the Medical Council, regardless of whether he/she is sentenced to imprisonment. Some offences, though appear to be minor in nature, are in fact offences punishable with imprisonment. Examples of offences punishable with imprisonment are careless driving, crossing continuous double white lines, driving / using an unregistered / unlicensed vehicle, using vehicle without insurance, riding / driving on a footpath, left-driving expressway: restriction on vehicles using right most lane (by holder of probationary driving licence), riding / possessing bicycle within country park or special area without consent of the Authority, riding as passenger in rear seat of public light bus not securely fastened with seat belt, licensee being liable for an offence committed in respect of an irradiating apparatus, etc.

Members of the profession are reminded that upon conviction of an offence punishable with imprisonment, they should report to the Medical Council **within 28 days** as required under section 29 of the Code of Professional Conduct as follows:

“A doctor who has been convicted in or outside Hong Kong of an offence punishable with imprisonment or has been the subject of adverse findings in disciplinary proceedings by other professional regulatory bodies is required to report the matter to the Council within 28 days from the conviction or the adverse disciplinary finding, even if the matter is under appeal. Failure to report within the specified time will in itself be ground for disciplinary action. In case of doubt the matter should be reported.”

In reporting conviction cases to the Medical Council, the doctor should provide all relevant document(s) such as certificate of trial as far as possible. Provision of sufficient information saves the Medical Council from having to make clarification with the doctor and/or liaise with the adjudicating court for retrieval of the related court document(s) and will facilitate the Medical Council in making an earlier decision on whether a disciplinary inquiry on the conviction should be held.

Timely renewal of practising / retention certificates

A notification letter was issued to individual doctors on 7 September 2020 inviting them to apply for renewal of the annual practising / retention certificates. The Medical Council would like to remind doctors to make timely application for renewal of the certificates, and draw doctors' attention to the following:

- (a) According to section 20A of the MRO, a doctor who has not renewed the practising certificate by 31 December cannot lawfully practise medicine from 1 January of the following year onwards, until and unless he/she has obtained a valid practising certificate; and
- (b) Section 19(1)(b) of the MRO provides that the Medical 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/her practising / retention certificate for that year. If a doctor's name is removed from the General Register, he/she will cease to be a registered doctor and cannot continue to practise. It is a criminal offence under section 28(2) of the MRO for a person whose name is not on the General Register to practise medicine or surgery.

Change of registered addresses

Under the MRO, any registered medical practitioner is required to provide the Registrar of Medical Practitioners with an address at which notices from the Medical Council may be served on him/her. For this purpose, please notify the Registrar of Medical Practitioners either in writing or by completing a form, which is available from the Medical Council's website and can be obtained from the Central Registration Office at the following address, as soon as there is any change in your registered address:

17/F, Wu Chung House, 213 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong
(Tel. No.: 2961 8648 / 2961 8758
Fax No.: 2891 7946 / 2573 1000)

The address provided will be used for the purposes associated with registration under the MRO. The registered addresses as well as the names, qualifications and dates of qualifications of all persons whose names appear on the General Register are required to be published annually in the Gazette. Although the registered address may be a practising address, a residential address or a Post Office Box number, the Medical Council advises that the **practising address** be provided as the registered address. The practising address will be of more meaningful reference for the public in ascertaining who is entitled to practise medicine in Hong Kong, and will also afford privacy to the practitioner's residential address.

While publication of the registered medical practitioner's registered address in the Gazette is a mandatory requirement under the MRO, the Medical Council has decided that a registered medical practitioner may choose whether to have his/her registered address published on the Council's website. The list of registered medical practitioners on the Council's website will be updated on a monthly basis.

2020 Election of Medical Members of the Medical Council

The 25th election of Medical Members of the Medical Council is being conducted to fill three vacancies. The result of the election will be announced on the Medical Council's website after the vote counting scheduled for 30 December 2020. The Members so elected will hold office from 24 January 2021 for a period of three years.

Membership Lists (as at 31 December 2020)

The Medical Council of Hong Kong	
Prof. LAU Wan-ye, Joseph, SBS (Chairman) (劉允怡教授)	
Mrs BIRCH LEE Suk-ye, Sandra, GBS, JP (李淑儀女士)	Mr LAM Chi-yau (林志紬先生)
Dr CHAN Hon-ye, Constance, JP (陳漢儀醫生)	Dr LAM Tzit-yuen, David (林哲玄醫生)
Dr Hon Pierre CHAN (陳沛然議員)	Dr LAU Chor-chiu, GMSM, MH, JP (劉楚釗醫生)
Mr CHAN Wing-kai (陳永佳先生)	Dr LEE Wai-hung, Danny (李偉雄醫生)
Dr CHENG Chi-man (鄭志文醫生)	Dr LEUNG Chi-chiu (梁子超醫生)
Dr CHEUNG Chin-pang (張展鵬醫生)	Dr LO Chi-yuen, Albert (盧志遠醫生)
Dr CHEUNG Hon-ming (張漢明醫生)	Dr LUNG David Christopher (龍振邦醫生)
Dr CHOI Kin, Gabriel (蔡堅醫生)	Mr MUI Cheuk-nang, Kenny (梅卓能先生)
Prof. CHOW Yat-ngok, York, GBS, MBE (周一嶽教授)	Dr PONG Chiu-fai, Jeffrey, MH (龐朝輝醫生)
Dr CHOW Yu-fat (周雨發醫生)	Dr SHEA Tat-ming, Paul (佘達明醫生)
Prof. FOK Tai-fai, SBS, JP (霍泰輝教授)	Prof. TANG Wai-king, Grace, SBS, JP (鄧惠瓊教授)
Dr HO Hung-kwong, Duncan (何鴻光醫生)	Dr WAI Yuk-chun, Veronica (韋玉珍醫生)
Dr HO Pak-leung, JP (何栢良醫生)	Prof. WONG Yung-hou, MH (王殷厚教授)
Ms HUI Mei-sheung, Tennessy, MH, JP (許美嫦女士)	Dr YEUNG Hip-wo, Victor (楊協和醫生)
Mr HUNG Hin-ching, Joseph (孔憲正先生)	Secretary : Miss Suzanne WONG (黃素珊女士)
Dr IP Wing-yuk (葉永玉醫生)	Legal Adviser : Mr Edward SHUM (岑炳生先生)
Mr KWONG Cho-shing, Antonio, MH (鄭祖盛先生)	Mr Stanley NG (吳焯軍先生)

Education and Accreditation Committee

Prof. TANG Wai-king, Grace, SBS, JP (Chairman)

(鄧惠瓊教授)

Dr CHOW Yu-fat

(周雨發醫生)

Dr TONG Kai-sing

(唐繼昇醫生)

Prof. HUNG Chi-tim, JP

(熊志添教授)

Prof. WING Yun-kwok

(榮潤國教授)

Prof. HUNG Ivan Fan-ngai

(孔繁毅教授)

Dr WONG Tin-chun, Gordon

(黃田鎮醫生)

Dr LAM Nai-man

(林乃文醫生)

Prof. WONG Yeung-shan, Samuel

(黃仰山教授)

Dr LAU Chor-chiu, GMSM, MH, JP

(劉楚釗醫生)

Dr YEUNG Hip-wo, Victor

(楊協和醫生)

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(謝淑儀女士)

Dr LUK Hung-to, Danny

(陸洪滔醫生)

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(岑炳生先生)

Dr PONG Chiu-fai, Jeffrey, MH

(龐朝輝醫生)

Ethics Committee

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(梁子超醫生)

Dr CHAN Hau-ngai, Kingsley

(陳厚毅醫生)

Dr TSE Chun-yan, MH

(謝俊仁醫生)

Dr Hon Pierre CHAN

(陳沛然議員)

Dr WAI Yuk-chun, Veronica

(韋玉珍醫生)

Dr HO Hok-kung

(何學工醫生)

Dr WONG Grace Josephine Wing-san

(王穎珊醫生)

Dr HO Pak-leung, JP

(何栢良醫生)

Prof. WONG Yung-hou, MH

(王殷厚教授)

Mr KWONG Cho-shing, Antonio, MH

(鄭祖盛先生)

Secretary : Ms Stella AU YEUNG

(歐陽佩英女士)

Dr LAM Tzit-yuen, David

(林哲玄醫生)

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(岑炳生先生)

Mr MA Siu-leung, BBS, MH

(馬紹良先生)

Health Committee

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(余達明醫生)

Dr CHEUNG Chin-pang

(張展鵬醫生)

Dr Mak Siu-king

(麥肇敬醫生)

Dr HUNG Bing-kei, Gabriel

(洪秉基醫生)

Mr MUI Cheuk-nang, Kenny

(梅卓能先生)

Dr LAM Hiu-ha, Debby

(林曉霞醫生)

Dr SO King-woon, Alan

(蘇景桓醫生)

Dr LEE Siu-yin, Ruby, JP

(李兆妍醫生)

Mr WOO King-hang

(胡勁恒先生)

Dr LO Chi-yuen, Albert

(盧志遠醫生)

Secretary : Ms Maria CHOW

(周群英女士)

Dr LO See-kit, Raymond

(勞思傑醫生)

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(岑炳生先生)

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(張漢明醫生)

Dr CHAN Kit-sheung

(陳潔霜醫生)

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(吳國偉教授)

Dr KONG Wing-ming, Henry

(江永明醫生)

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Dr LAM Wing-wo

(林永和醫生)

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Prof. LAU Yu-lung, JP

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Secretary : Ms Phyllis KO

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Legal Adviser : Mr Edward SHUM

(岑炳生先生)

Dr LI Mun-pik, Teresa

(李敏碧醫生)

Deemed Preliminary Investigation Committee

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(霍泰輝教授)

Dr IP Wing-yuk (Deputy Chairman)
(葉永玉醫生)

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(李淑儀女士)

Dr MAW Kit-chee, Christina
(繆潔芝醫生)

Dr FOO Kam-so, Stephen
(傅鑑蘇醫生)

Dr NG Kwok-keung
(吳國強醫生)

Ms HUI Mei-sheung, Tennessy, MH, JP *
(許美嫦女士)

Dr SO Yui-chi
(蘇睿智醫生)

Mr HUNG Hin-ching, Joseph *
(孔憲正先生)

Secretary : Ms Maria CHOW
(周群英女士)

Mr KWONG Cho-shing, Antonio, MH *
(鄭祖盛先生)

* serving on a rotation basis, each for a period of three months

New Preliminary Investigation Committee

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(鄭志文醫生)

Dr FUNG Tak-kwan, James (Deputy Chairman)
(馮德焜醫生)

Dr CHIU Shing-ping, James
(趙承平醫生)

Ms NG Ka-man, Rendy
(吳嘉汶女士)

Ms CHUI Hoi-ye, Heidi
(徐凱怡女士)

Prof. WONG Yung-hou, MH
(王殷厚教授)

Dr LEE Wai-hung, Danny
(李偉雄醫生)

Secretary : Mr Ambrose WONG
(黃兆雄先生)

Assessors

Lay Assessors

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Ms CHENG Hoi-yue, Vivian (鄭凱瑜女士)	Mr LUI Wing-cheung, Kenneth (呂永翔先生)
Ms CHOW Anna M W (周敏華女士)	Ms NG Ka-man, Rendy (吳嘉汶女士)
Ms CHUI Hoi-ye, Heidi (徐凱怡女士)	Mr NG Ting-shan (伍庭山先生)
Ms Ho Yuk-wai, Joan (何玉慧女士)	Mr TSANG Kin-ping (曾建平先生)
Mr HUI Cheuk-lun, Lawrence (許卓倫先生)	Mr WONG Ka-kin, Andy (黃家健先生)
Mr HUI Man-kit, Patrick (許文傑先生)	Mr WOO King-hang (胡勁恒先生)
Mr KAN Pak-him, Christopher (簡柏謙先生)	Ms WU Ka-lai, Cary (胡嘉麗女士)
Mr LAI Kwan-ho, Raymond (賴君豪先生)	Mr YANG Kwong-fai (楊光輝先生)
Mr LAI Yat-hin, Adrian (黎逸軒先生)	Mr YEUNG Chi-wai, Edwin, MH (楊志偉先生)
Ms LAU Sze-wan, Serena, JP (劉詩韻女士)	Mr YUEN Hon-lam, Joseph (袁漢林先生)
Mr LAW Yu-wing (羅裕榮先生)	

Medical Assessors

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Dr BEH Swan-lip (馬宣立醫生)	Prof. LEUNG Kai-shun, Christopher (梁啟信教授)
Dr CHAN Hung-chiu, Peter (陳洪昭醫生)	Dr LI Fan-lan, Florence Virginia (李芬蘭醫生)
Dr CHAN Nim-tak, Douglas (陳念德醫生)	Dr LI Mun-pik, Teresa (李敏碧醫生)
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Dr LAU Ho-lim (劉浩濂醫生)	