

Timely renewal of practising / retention certificates

A notification letter was issued to individual doctors on 30 September 2024 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 Medical Registration Ordinance, 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.
- (b) Section 19(1)(b) of the Medical Registration Ordinance 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 Ordinance for a person whose name is not on the General Register to practise medicine or surgery.

In line with the Government's policy objective of digitalization of public services, an online platform has been launched to enable submission of applications for renewal of practising / retention certificate electronically. In addition, an electronic version of practising / retention certificate will be introduced with effect from the current annual renewal exercise. For details, please [click here](#).

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