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The Medical Council of Hong Kong

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12 November 2025

To: All Registered Medical Practitioners

Dear Doctors,

Guidelines on Quoting of Qualifications

According to section 5 of the *Code of Professional Conduct* issued by the Medical Council, doctors may quote those quotable qualifications approved by the Council in dissemination of service information to the public. The Council has published the *Guidelines on Quoting of Qualifications* (“*Guidelines*”) in August 2014 providing advice to doctors on how they should quote their approved quotable qualifications. The Council has recently reviewed and made a series of amendments to the existing *Guidelines*. The updated version of the *Guidelines* will take effect from 1 January 2026. A copy is at **Appendix A** for information and compliance by all members of the profession. Major revisions of the *Guidelines* are summarized at **Appendix B**. Unless specified otherwise, there will be a transitional period of three years (from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2029) if adjustments are required on visiting cards, signboards, websites, and other relevant materials for communication with patients and the public.

As indicated in paragraph 2 of the *Guidelines*, when quoting any qualifications, doctors are advised to quote the qualification entitling him / her to full registration and / or the primary (first) medical qualification attained by him / her as the first qualification before all other quotable qualifications. Definition of primary (first) medical qualification under different types of registration can be found in footnote 2 of the *Guidelines*. Existing registrants under limited or temporary registration are advised to refer to the arrangement stated in the latter part of **Appendix B** before quoting their primary (first) medical qualifications.

Yours sincerely,

(Professor Grace TANG, SBS, JP)

Chairman,

The Medical Council of Hong Kong

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Medical Council of Hong Kong
Guidelines on Quoting of Qualifications
(1 January 2026)

According to section 5 “Professional communication and information dissemination” of the Code of Professional Conduct (“the Code”) issued by the Medical Council of Hong Kong (“the Medical Council”), doctors may quote those quotable qualifications approved by the Medical Council in dissemination of service information to the public. Such quotable qualifications include:

- (a) qualifications entitling a doctor to full registration under Part I of the General Register (“GR”) (e.g. MB BS (HK), MB ChB (CUHK), LMCHK, MB BS (Lond)¹, MRCS (Eng)¹);
- (b) primary (first) medical qualifications² attained by a doctor under full or limited or temporary or special registration, i.e. Part I or III or IV or V of the GR, provided the concerned doctors can satisfy the Registrar of Medical Practitioners that they are entitled to claim such primary (first) medical qualifications in accordance with section 13(1) of the Medical Registration Ordinance (“MRO”). Under no circumstances shall the concerned doctors quote non-medical qualifications such as bachelors of science obtained prior to their primary (first) medical qualifications;
- (c) specialist qualifications registered on the Specialist Register (e.g. FHKAM (Medicine)); and
- (d) additional registrable qualifications³ as well as other additional quotable qualifications approved by the Medical Council as included in the List of Quotable Qualifications.

2. Doctors are advised to quote the qualification entitling him / her to full registration (in the case of paragraph 1(a) above) and / or the primary (first) medical qualification attained by him / her (in the case of paragraph 1(b) above) whenever he / she quotes any of his / her qualifications, and to

¹ While previously certain overseas diplomas entitled the holders to full registration as doctors in Hong Kong (see note 2(ii) below), currently only the medical qualifications conferred by local universities stipulated in Schedule 1 of the MRO (e.g. MB BS (HK) and MB ChB (CUHK)) and LMCHK entitle the holders to full registration under Part I of the GR in accordance with the MRO.

² Primary (first) medical qualifications refer to:

- (i) For doctors fully registered by virtue of being holders of medical degrees conferred by local universities – The qualification entitling him / her to full registration, i.e. same as paragraph 1(a) above.
- (ii) For doctors fully registered by virtue of being holders of certain United Kingdom (“UK”) or Irish or recognized Commonwealth diplomas who obtained full registration before the commencement of section 6 of the Medical Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 1995 or in accordance with section 5 of the Medical Registration (Transitional Provisions) Ordinance 1997 – The qualification entitling him / her to full registration, i.e. same as paragraph 1(a) above.
- (iii) For doctors fully registered by virtue of being LMCHK – The qualification accepted by the Medical Council under section 7A(1)(b)(i) of the MRO when he / she applied for taking the Licensing Examination.
- (iv) For doctors under limited registration (including those to be fully registered through the bridging pathway for limited registration doctors under the special registration regime) or temporary registration – The qualification as declared by him / her in the application form or proforma specified by the Registrar of Medical Practitioners.
- (v) For doctors under special registration (including those to be fully registered through the special registration pathway, except for limited registration doctors through the bridging pathway as mentioned in (iv) above) – The qualification recognized under Schedule 1A of the MRO for the purpose of his / her special registration.

³ The Medical Council previously accepted doctors’ applications for registration of additional degrees or other qualifications recognized by the General Medical Council (“GMC”) of the UK to be recorded against their entries on the GR. The Medical Council reviewed such policy and decided that such additional degrees or other qualifications recognized by the GMC would no longer be added to the GR after the cut-off date on 28 February 2001. Nevertheless, such additional degrees or other qualifications continue to be accepted for use as quotable qualifications on signboards, letterheads and visiting cards, etc. Fellowships awarded by the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine are not affected by the revised policy.

quote it as the first qualification before all other quotable qualifications. Repeated failure to comply with this advice may constitute professional misconduct.

3. For doctors fully registered with the Medical Council by virtue of being Licentiate of the Medical Council of Hong Kong (“LMCHK”), he / she should quote “Licentiate of the Medical Council of Hong Kong” (“香港醫務委員會執照”) / “LMCHK” as the first qualification before all other quotable qualifications. He / She may also quote the primary (first) medical qualification attained by him / her after “LMCHK” and before all other quotable qualifications.²

4. “Honours” should not be quoted in the qualifications entitling a doctor to full registration or primary (first) medical qualification attained by a doctor irrespective of his / her type of registration to prevent the perception of superiority over doctors who do not possess or claim such distinctions. Against the same spirit, “Distinction” or “Merit” or the like in additional qualifications attained by doctors that are included in the List of Quotable Qualifications (paragraph 1(d) above refers) should not be quoted as well.

5. A summary of quoting of qualifications by registered medical practitioners of different types of registration is at **Annex** for reference.

6. Doctors should observe the following in quoting their qualifications:

- (a) carefully word the English / Chinese titles and abbreviations of the qualification by referring to (i) the official ones provided by the conferring authority,⁴ and (ii) the List of Quotable Qualifications of the Medical Council or the World Directory of Medical Schools,⁵ as appropriate; and
- (b) specify the conferring authority or medical school of the qualification in both the full titles and the abbreviation.

7. Doctors may apply for inclusion of additional qualifications in the List of Quotable Qualifications. Application form and relevant guidelines are available at the website of the Medical Council at <https://www.mchk.org.hk>.

8. Doctors should read these Guidelines in conjunction with section 5 of the Code, and comply with all the relevant provisions in dissemination of service information.

⁴ The Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance 2025, which has come into operation on 24 August 2025, repeals obsolete provisions and references in various legislations, including those clauses in the MRO related to the transitional arrangements for full registration of certain UK, Irish and recognized Commonwealth diploma holders. Any doctor whose entitlement to be registered as a medical practitioner was based on holding a UK or Irish diploma or a recognized Commonwealth diploma can continue to quote such qualification as registered in the GR. While the original Schedules 3 and 4 of the MRO, which listed out the “United Kingdom or Irish Diploma Qualifications” and the “Recognised Commonwealth Institutions or Bodies” respectively, were repealed alongside other relevant sections, the concerned doctors may still refer to section 6 of the Medical Registration (Transitional Provisions) Ordinance 1997 (No. 25 of 1997) available in the Hong Kong e-Legislation website for the original Schedules 3 and 4 of the MRO in quoting their qualifications.

⁵ The two former international medical directories, namely the Avicenna Directory for Medicine maintained by the University of Copenhagen in collaboration with the World Health Organization and the World Federation for Medical Education, and the International Medical Education Directory maintained by the Foundation of Advancement of International Medical Education and Research, were merged to create the World Directory of Medical Schools (<https://www.wdoms.org>) launched in April 2014.

Quoting of Qualifications by Registered Medical Practitioners

Category of qualifications [Paragraph 1 of the Guidelines refers]	Full Registration [Part I of the General Register (“GR”)]				Provisional Registration ¹	Limited Registration ²	Temporary Registration	Special Registration ³
	Holders of medical degrees conferred by local universities ⁴	Holders of certain overseas diplomas previously entitled to full registration ⁵	Licentiates of the Medical Council of Hong Kong (“LMCHK”) ⁶	Registered through the special registration pathway	[Part II of the GR]	[Part III of the GR]	[Part IV of the GR]	[Part V of the GR]
(a) Qualification entitling a doctor to full registration ^{7,8}	To quote full title / abbreviation of the degree concerned, e.g. MB BS (HK), MB ChB (CUHK).	To quote full title / abbreviation of the degree concerned as included in his / her entry in the GR.	To quote “Licentiate of the Medical Council of Hong Kong” / “LMCHK”.	Not applicable				
(b) Primary (first) medical qualification attained by the doctor concerned ^{7,8}	Same as (a) above.	Same as (a) above.	To quote full title / abbreviation of the qualification accepted by the Medical Council under section 7A(1)(b)(i) of the MRO when he / she applied for taking the Licensing Examination.	To quote full title / abbreviation of the same qualification as and when he / she was under special registration.	Not applicable	To quote full title / abbreviation of the qualification as declared by him / her in the application form or proforma specified by the Registrar of Medical Practitioners.	To quote full title / abbreviation of the qualification recognized under Schedule 1A of the MRO for the purpose of his / her special registration.	

¹ Provisionally registered doctors, who are undergoing internship / assessment, are not eligible to quote any qualifications attained by him / her.

² Including those to be fully registered through the bridging pathway for limited registration doctors under the special registration regime.

³ Except for limited registration doctors through the bridging pathway as mentioned in note 2 above.

⁴ Referring to local universities stipulated in Schedule 1 of the MRO.

⁵ Only applicable to holders of certain UK or Irish or recognized Commonwealth diplomas who obtained full registration before the commencement of section 6 of the Medical Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 1995 or in accordance with section 5 of the Medical Registration (Transitional Provisions) Ordinance 1997.

⁶ Doctors fully registered by virtue of being LMCHK should refer to paragraph 3 of the Guidelines for the sequence of quoting of his / her qualifications.

⁷ Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the Guidelines, doctors are advised to quote the qualification entitling him / her to full registration (in the case of paragraph 1(a) of the Guidelines) and / or the primary (first) medical qualification attained by him / her (in the case of paragraph 1(b) of the Guidelines) whenever he / she quotes any of his / her qualifications, and to quote it as the first qualification before all other quotable qualifications. Repeated failure to comply with this advice may constitute professional misconduct.

⁸ Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the Guidelines, “Honours” should not be quoted in the qualification entitling a doctor to full registration and / or the primary (first) medical qualification attained by a doctor irrespective of his / her type of registration.

Category of qualifications [Paragraph 1 of the Guidelines refers]	Full Registration [Part I of the General Register (“GR”)]				Provisional Registration ¹	Limited Registration ²	Temporary Registration	Special Registration ³
	Holders of medical degrees conferred by local universities ⁴	Holders of certain overseas diplomas previously entitled to full registration ⁵	Licentiates of the Medical Council of Hong Kong (“LMCHK”) ⁶	Registered through the special registration pathway	[Part II of the GR]	[Part III of the GR]	[Part IV of the GR]	[Part V of the GR]
(c) Specialist qualifications registered on the Specialist Register	To quote full title / abbreviation of the qualification as shown on the List of Quotable Qualifications.				Not applicable	To quote full title / abbreviation of the qualification as shown on the List of Quotable Qualifications.		
(d) Additional registrable qualifications as well as other additional quotable qualifications approved by the Medical Council as included in the List of Quotable Qualifications ⁹	To quote full title / abbreviation of the qualification as shown on the List of Quotable Qualifications.				Not applicable	To quote full title / abbreviation of the qualification as shown on the List of Quotable Qualifications.		

⁹ Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the Guidelines, “Distinction” or “Merit” or the like in additional qualifications attained by doctors that are included in the List of Quotable Qualifications should not be quoted.

Major revisions of the *Guidelines on Quoting of Qualifications*¹

Paragraph	Amendment
1(b) [new]	To allow <u>quoting of primary (first) medical qualification</u> attained by a doctor under full, limited, temporary or special registration, with detailed definitions of primary (first) medical qualifications for different types of registration provided in <u>footnote 2</u> .
2	To reaffirm the principle of quoting the qualification entitling a doctor to full registration and / or the primary (first) medical qualification attained by him / her as the <u>first qualification before all other</u> quotable qualifications.
3	To simplify the quoting arrangement for the <u>Licentiate of the Medical Council</u> by allowing him / her to quote his / her primary (first) medical qualification (no need to put in brackets) after “LMCHK” and before all other quotable qualifications, e.g.: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>LMCHK, MB BS (Sydney), FHKAM (Medicine), FRACP</i></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>LMCHK MB BS (Sydney) FHKAM (Medicine) FRACP</i></p> </div>
4 [new]	To state the requirement of <u>non-quotability</u> of “Honours” / “Distinction” / “Merit” or <u>the like</u> in any primary (first) and /or additional quotable qualifications. ²
5 [new]	To summarize at <u>Annex</u> the quoting arrangements for different types of registration.
6	To remove / replace obsolete schedules and directories of medical qualifications.
7 & 8	To rearrange paragraph numbers.

Arrangement for existing registrants under limited registration³ or temporary registration

According to footnote 2(iv) of the updated *Guidelines*, doctors under limited registration¹ or temporary registration need to declare their primary (first) medical qualifications if they wish to quote such qualifications. Existing registrants should submit a proforma to the Registrar of Medical Practitioners for the aforesaid declaration. The updated *Guidelines* and proforma will be ready for download via the QR code or hyperlink below on 1 January 2026:



<https://www.mchk.org.hk/english/guideline/qualification.html>

¹ Unless specified otherwise, there will be a transitional period of three years (from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2029) if adjustments are required on visiting cards, signboards, websites, and other relevant materials for communication with patients and the public.

² The requirement of impermissible quoting of “Honours” was promulgated vide the Medical Council’s Newsletter Issue No. 31 in March 2024, with a transitional period from 6 December 2023 to 5 December 2026 for removing any reference to “Honours” in the primary (first) medical qualification.

³ Including those who obtained special registration through the bridging pathway for limited registration doctors.