

Press Release

Dental Council of Hong Kong Supports Proposed Legislative Amendments to Dentists Registration Ordinance

The Dental Council of Hong Kong has responded favourably to the Health Bureau's Consultation Document on the Proposed Legislative Amendment to the Dentists Registration Ordinance. It has contributed views on the aspects of operation, legal concerns, and enforceability of the proposed amendments.

Upon thorough consultation with the stakeholders of the profession, the Council had previously submitted a proposal on the amendment of the Dentists Registration Ordinance in 2019 in response to the recommendations of the 2017 Strategic Review on Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development and the initiatives of the Chief Executive's 2018 Policy Address to review the Dentists Registration Ordinance, focusing on enhancing professionalism and ensuring that the regulatory framework keeps pace with time. The Council is delighted to note that most of the suggestions made in the Council's 2019 proposal have been incorporated in the current legislative amendment proposals, in particular the strengthened composition of the Council and the Preliminary Investigation Committee, the establishment of the Health Committee, the introduction of mandatory Continuing Professional Development Program and other technical updates.

The Chairman of the Council, Dr LEE Kin-man stressed, "The Council welcomes any measures that will help protect patients' rights and maintain public confidence in the dental profession. The new initiatives set out in the Consultation Document address concerns regarding manpower and public dental services and are practical and well in line with the Council's core values."

The Council supports the new timely initiatives, which include internship and a comprehensive registration framework.

The Council welcomes the proposed internship and period of assessment requirements prior to full registration. The internship programme will offer dental graduates ample real-workplace clinical experience treating patients of different ages, ethnicities and social groups, and broaden and deepen the clinical exposure of the graduates. The Council believes that the internship programme can enhance the clinical competence of dental graduates and better prepare them for independent practice after registration.

The Council supports the introduction of new types of registration, including limited registration and special registration that create additional pathways for non-locally trained dentists to serve the community. The Council also agrees that these new types of proposed registration should be subject to the sanction and disciplinary regulation of the Council to ensure that all registered dentists meet the appropriate standards of competence, ethics and professionalism.

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Dr LEE stated “The proposed legislative amendments to the Dentists Registration Ordinance represent a significant milestone for the dental profession in Hong Kong. It is hoped that the dental professionals can collaborate in unity and serve the community together. The Dental Council of Hong Kong will also be fully committed to upholding its mission and providing unwavering support for the successful implementation of these proposed initiatives.”

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