

**Response of the Dental Council of Hong Kong
on Internship Arrangements for Local Dental Graduates**

The Dental Council of Hong Kong (the Council) has learned that the Government had further elaborated vide a press release today (May 21) on the proposal on requiring graduates of the local dental undergraduate programme to undergo a one-year internship after graduation.

As mentioned in the above-mentioned press release, the Council had issued to the University of Hong Kong (HKU) three accreditation reports on the Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) programme of HKU in 2014, 2019 and 2023, highlighting the need to enhance the clinical training and experience of local BDS students. Consequently, the Council notified HKU in 2019 and 2023 that its recognition to the HKU BDS programme was maintained only on the condition that the Faculty of Dentistry (the Faculty) would ensure proper implementation of the relevant recommendations and submit annual reports on the follow-up measures. The Council has concerns over the inadequacies in the implementation of the programme's clinical training, and the failure of the Faculty to provide evidence showing that all graduates had completed the required number of clinical practice cases for all essential dental procedures and had acquired adequate clinical experience.

The Council recognizes that there are imminent needs to kick-start the internship arrangement, and supports the Government's Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill 2024 to implement a one-year internship programme for local dental graduates after graduation. As in the past, the Council will maintain close communication with the Faculty and continue to ensure proper implementation of the recommendations of the accreditation reports, ensuring that graduates of the HKU BDS programme meet the required professional standards.

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