



香港牙醫管理委員會
THE DENTAL COUNCIL
OF
HONG KONG

貴處檔號 :
Your Ref.
本會檔號 : DC 1/13/A III
Our Ref.

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21 November 2024

Dear Dentists,

Letter to Registered Dentists

The purpose of this letter is to update you on relevant issues regarding the passage of the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2024 and other issues related to the practice of dentistry in Hong Kong.

(I) Dentists Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2024

The Dentists Registration (Amendment) Bill 2024 was passed at the Legislative Council on 10 July 2024. The relevant amendments to the Dentists Registration Ordinance (“DRO”) will come into operation on the day(s) to be appointed by the Secretary for Health by notice published in the Gazette. Please see **Annex A** for the implementation schedule by phases.

The Government had announced on 16 October 2024 that relevant provisions under Phase 1 will take effect from **1 January 2025**. Details are provided in ensuing paragraphs -

(A) *New Types of Registration*

On the commencement date of the relevant provisions of the amended DRO, i.e. 1 January 2025, the General Register (“GR”) of dentists will be divided into the following 5 parts, namely –

- (a) Part 1: Full registration
 - (i) the practising list; and
 - (ii) the non-practising list.
- (b) Part 2: Provisional registration
- (c) Part 3: Limited registration
- (d) Part 4: Temporary registration
- (e) Part 5: Special registration

As a transitional arrangement, the name and particulars of each registered dentist currently on the resident list of the GR will be transferred to the practising list of Part 1 (full registration) of the GR. Registered dentists on the non-resident list of the GR will be transferred to the non-practising list of Part 1 (full registration) of the GR. On the said transfer, an existing registered dentist is to be regarded as a person with full registration and is not required to register afresh.

Starting from 1 January 2025, the Dental Council of Hong Kong (“the Council”) can approve applications for new registration pathways including limited registration, special registration and temporary registration. Please refer to the following Council’s website for details of the new types of registration –

https://www.dchk.org.hk/en/registration_dentists/index.htm

(B) Revamped Composition and Structure of the Council

To enable the Council to cope with its additional statutory functions, the Council’s composition will be expanded from 12 to 19 in Phase 1 and gradually to 24 in Phase 3. The expanded composition and structure of the Council are set out in **Annex B**.

(C) Definition of Practising Dentistry

The definition of “practising dentistry” under section 2(2) of the existing DRO has been in force since 1940. Throughout several decades, the dental professions have evolved drastically in view of new technologies and industry practices. It is essential to update the definition to avoid creating loopholes for lay persons to offer dental advice or services to the public. The services specified under Schedule 2 of the amended DRO (**Annex C**) for the meaning of “practising dentistry” will take effect from 1 January 2025 while the services specified in column 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 3 will come into operation on the day(s) to be appointed by the Secretary for Health by notice published in the Gazette.

(D) Mandatory Continuing Professional Development Requirement

Under the amended DRO, the Council is empowered to determine continuing professional development (“CPD”) requirement for issuing practising certificates. The current plan is to make the CPD requirement mandatory upon the end of the current CPD cycle, i.e. 1 January 2026, details of which will be announced in Q3 of 2025.

Dentists who have enrolled in the CPD Programme in the current CPD cycle are not required to enroll again if they wish to continue their participation in the new CPD cycle. However, should you decide to change to another CPD Programme Administrator in the new CPD cycle starting from 2026, you should inform your existing CPD Programme Administrator accordingly. For new enrollees who intend to join the CPD Programme, they should enroll with one of the CPD Programme Administrators accredited by the Council. Please note that individual CPD Programme Administrators will have their own fee structures for their services.

(E) Revision of Fees

The existing fees for various items under the DRO have been in effect since 2016. A schedule of updated fees under the amended DRO will come into effect on 1 January 2025. Please refer to the Council's website for details.

https://www.dchk.org.hk/docs/Revision_of_fee_1_Jan_2025_en.pdf

(F) Issue of Annual Practising Certificate

The practising certificate 2024 will expire on 31 December 2024. Every registered dentist who intends to continue practising dentistry in Hong Kong in 2025 must apply for issue of practising certificate 2025. The notice of application for practising certificate 2025 was issued to all dentists in late September 2024.

Under the existing arrangement, dentists who apply for issue of practising certificates are only required to pay the requisite fee without submitting any application form. However, applications for practising certificate 2025 reaching the Council **on or after 1 January 2025** onwards must be made in the specified form with the new fee of \$745 (instead of the existing fee of \$555). The general demand notes issued in September 2024 for the payment of practising certificate 2025 for the amount of \$555 will no longer be valid in 2025. The relevant application form for practising certificate will be available on the Council's website in 2025. Practising certificates will be issued to dentists subject to the approval of the Council.

(G) New Rules regarding Certificates of Dentists

(i) Certificate of Registration

Dentists are no longer required to display Certificate of Registration with effect from 1 January 2025. This is in line with the practice of other healthcare professionals.

(ii) Practising Certificate

As mentioned in section (A) above, the existing "resident list" and "non-resident list" under the GR will be redefined as "practising list" and "non-practising list" respectively under Part 1 of the GR with effect from 1 January 2025.

Registered dentists on the practising list (i.e. currently known as resident list) should apply for practising certificate annually with specified form for practising in Hong Kong.

(iii) Retention Certificate

Under the amended DRO, registered dentists on non-practising list (i.e. currently known as non-resident list) should apply for retention certificate every **three years** for retaining their names on the non-practising list.

On the transfer of a dentist's name from the existing non-resident list to the non-practising list on 1 January 2025, the dentist is to be regarded as having been issued a retention certificate to be in force until **31 December 2025**. The Council will issue a letter to dentists on the non-practising list before expiry of the respective retention certificate to alert them

to apply for issue of retention certificate if they wish to have their names retained on the non-practising list of the GR.

(H) Provision of Address

A registered dentist must provide to the Registrar of Dentists (“Registrar”) (i) an address in Hong Kong at which he or she may be contacted and (ii) the address of all premises in Hong Kong on which he or she carries on the practice of dentistry, except:

- (a) any premises on which the person carries on the practice of dentistry not for gain; or
- (b) any premises on which the person provides an outreach medical service (within the meaning of section 9 of the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633)); or
- (c) any premises of a class specified by the Council by notice published in the Gazette.

For a registered dentist whose name is transferred from the existing resident list to the practising list on 1 January 2025, his/her current main address will be regarded as the address of the dentist at which he or she may be contacted in Hong Kong and the address of premises in Hong Kong on which he or she carries the practice of dentistry. The branch address(es), if any, will be regarded as the address of premises in Hong Kong on which the dentist carries the practice of dentistry. For a registered dentist whose name is transferred from the existing non-resident list to the non-practising list on 1 January 2025, the current correspondence address will be regarded as the registered address of the dentist at which he or she may be contacted in Hong Kong.

Please note that a registered dentist is required to report any change of address in Hong Kong at which he or she may be contacted or the change of any address at which the dentist carries on the practice of dentistry for gain within 2 months of any such change. The report should be made to –

Central Registration Office (Dental)
17/F, Wu Chung House
213 Queen’s Road East
Wanchai, Hong Kong
(Tel: 2961 8655 Fax: 2891 7946)

The form for report of change of any of the aforesaid change will be uploaded on the website of the Council in 2025.

(I) Inspection of Premises

With effect from 1 January 2025, a public officer may, with the written authorization of the Council, exercise any or all of the following powers –

- (a) to enter any premises used or proposed to be used for the practice of dentistry;
- (b) after entering the premises –
 - (i) to inspect the premises;
 - (ii) to observe any procedure or test carried out on the premises;
 - (iii) to take any photograph and video recording on the premises;
 - (iv) to do anything necessary for ascertaining whether a person has done, is doing or is about to do an act that may render the person liable to an inquiry mentioned in

section 18 of the amended DRO.

(J) Code of Professional Discipline

In view of the legislative amendments, revisions will be made to the current *Code of Professional Discipline for the Guidance of Dental Practitioners in Hong Kong* (revised in December 2019) (“the Code”) as appropriate and further details will be announced by the Council in due course.

(II) Dissemination of Service Information to the Public

The Council has received from time to time complaints against dentists regarding dissemination of information to the public contrary to the Code and the relevant guidelines of the Council. After consideration, the Council decided at its Policy Meetings that the Council may require the dentist concerned to make necessary rectifications of any non-compliances with the Council’s Code or guidelines on the following matters, if considered appropriate –

- (a) Quoting of titles/abbreviations of qualifications
- (b) Service information notices
- (c) Dental practice Website, personal web pages and social media for dentists
- (d) Dissemination of information

Should the dentist fail to produce evidence of the rectification within the specified period, the matters will be proceeded as complaints or information of unprofessional conduct which may result in disciplinary action being taken against the dentist concerned. For ease of reference, relevant sections of the guidelines on the matters that may require rectification are listed below –

- (a) Section 1.2 of the Code (rules of good communication and information dissemination);
- (b) Section 1.3 of the Code (dissemination of service information to the public);
- (c) Section 1.3.5 of the Code (practice websites);
- (d) Section 1.3.6 of the Code (service information notices);
- (e) Section 1.10 of the Code (personal homepage on the internet and other social media);
- (f) Appendix C of the Code (guidelines on service information notice);
- (g) Appendix F of the Code (guidelines on dental practice website); and
- (h) Guidelines on Personal Web Pages and Social Media

(III) Dental Company

The Provisions on “dental companies” under the existing DRO will NOT be repealed until at least commencement of licensing regime for dental clinics under Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633). As such, every body corporate carrying on the business of dentistry shall continue to transmit to the Registrar a statement in the prescribed form within 7 days of 1 January 2025 in accordance with section 12(3) of the DRO.

(IV) **Revamped Website of the Council**

The revamped website of the Council will be launched on 1 January 2025. You are invited to visit the website to obtain the updated information.

The Council will keep all dentists updated on the progress of the implementation of the amended DRO and any issues of particular concern.

Yours faithfully,



(Ms Maria CHOW)
Secretary

The Dental Council of Hong Kong

c.c. President, The College of Dental Surgeons of Hong Kong
Consultant i/c Dental Services, Department of Health
Acting Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, The University of Hong Kong
President, The Hong Kong Dental Association

**Phased Implementation of
the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2024**

1 January 2025	Q2 2025 (targeted)	Gradual completion by July 2026 (targeted)
Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited, Special and Temporary Registration (Non-locally Trained Dentists)• Composition of the Dental Council of Hong Kong (“DCHK”) (19 Members)• DCHK Structure• Definition of “Practising Dentistry”• New Rules on Certificates• Provision of Address• Inspection of Premises• Code of Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provisional Registration (Internship and Period of Assessment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DCHK Composition (24 Members)• DCHK Structure with a new Health Committee• Abolish “Deemed-to-be registered” and “Dental companies”• Statutory Registration of Dental Care Professionals

Composition of the Dental Council of Hong Kong

Phase 1 (1 January 2025)

19 Members

- (i) the Registrar of Dentists;
- (ii) 1 consultant dental surgeon of the Dental Services of the Department of Health appointed by the Chief Executive (“CE”);
- (iii) 1 registered dentist, who is a full-time member of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Hong Kong (“HKU”), nominated by the HKU and appointed by the CE;
- (iv) 1 registered dentist nominated by the Board of Governors of The Prince Philip Dental Hospital and appointed by the CE;
- (v) 1 registered specialist dentist nominated by the Council of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine and appointed by the CE;
- (vi) 2 registered dentists nominated by the Council of the Hong Kong Dental Association (“HKDA”) and appointed by the CE;
- (vii) 1 registered dentist, who satisfies the condition* specified in subsection (3), nominated by the Council of the HKDA and appointed by the CE;
- (viii) 4 registered dentists appointed by the CE;
- (ix) 2 registered medical practitioners appointed by the CE;
- (x) 5 lay persons appointed by the CE.

Phase 3 (Gradual completion by July 2026 (targeted))

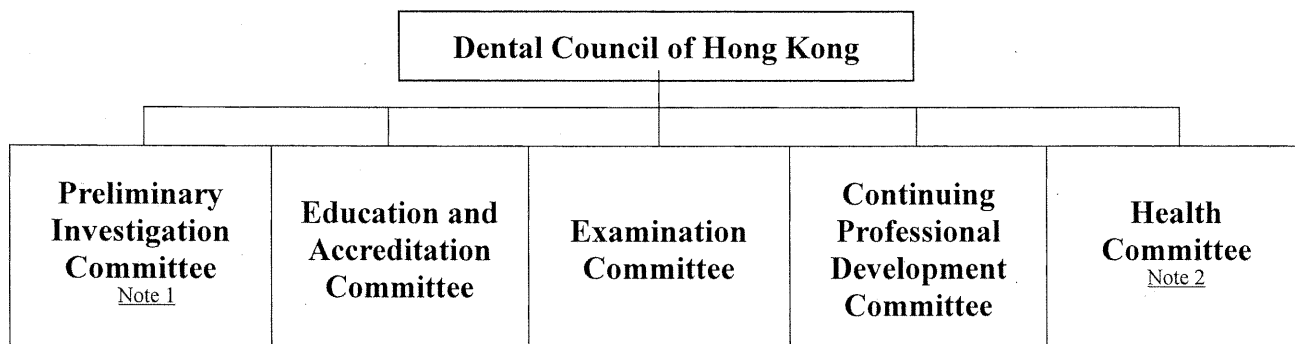
24 Members *(also including the following 5 members under (xi) and (xii) after enactment of the relevant provisions)*

- (xi) 3 persons with full registration whose names are contained in the practising list—
 - (i) appointed by the CE from a list of not less than 9 such persons elected in an election held in accordance with the Dentists Election Regulation; or
 - (ii) if less than 9 such persons are elected in such an election—appointed at the discretion of the CE, whether or not the persons appointed are persons elected in the election;
- (xii) 2 lay persons—
 - (i) appointed by the CE from a list of not less than 6 lay persons elected in an election held in accordance with the Organization Representatives Election Regulation; or
 - (ii) if less than 6 lay persons are elected in such an election—appointed at the discretion of the CE, whether or not the persons appointed are persons elected in the election.

Note

- * *As at the date of nomination, has been –
a person with full registration whose name is on practising / resident list for at least 10 years in aggregate; or
elected as HKDA Council member and served for at least one full term.*

Structure of the Dental Council of Hong Kong



Note

- 1 *The Dental Council of Hong Kong may set up more than one Preliminary Investigation Committee.*
- 2 *Health Committee will be set up upon commencement of the provisions of the amended Dentists Registration Ordinance in Phase 3 (Gradual completion by July 2026).*

Schedule 2 of the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2024

Services Specified for Meaning of *Practising Dentistry*

1. Examine the condition of the mouth, teeth or jaws of another person, or their associated structures, to facilitate the diagnosis or treatment of any disease, pain, disorder, deficiency, deformity, discolouration, lesion or injury of the mouth, teeth, jaws or structures, including, without limiting the provision above, the taking of a digital impression with an intra-oral scanner
2. Diagnose or treat any disease, pain, disorder, deficiency, deformity, discolouration, lesion or injury of the mouth, teeth or jaws of another person, or their associated structures
3. Perform any procedure or operation on another person that is adjunctive to a service mentioned in item 1 or 2
4. Prescribe, apply or insert any substance, artificial tooth, filling, device, appliance or prosthesis for the alteration, restoration, regulation or improvement of the mouth, teeth or jaws of another person, or their associated structures, including, without limiting the provision above—
 - (a) the carrying out of dental bleaching or teeth whitening procedure;
 - (b) the prescription of clear aligner; and
 - (c) the carrying out of teeth veneering procedure