



Chapter 1

Structure and Functions of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong

The structure and functions of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong are specified in the Chinese Medicine Ordinance. The council is mainly responsible for ensuring adequate standards of professional practice and professional conduct in the profession of Chinese medicine practitioners; the adequate standards of practice and conduct in the trade of Chinese medicines; the proper use of Chinese herbal medicines; and the safety, quality and efficacy of proprietary Chinese medicines. To implement the regulatory system effectively, the council is supported by the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board and the Chinese Medicines Board, and seven committees have been established under these two boards.

The Chinese Medicine Ordinance and the policies formulated by the council empower the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board and the Chinese Medicines Board to carry out regulatory measures of Chinese medicine practitioners, and Chinese medicines. These measures include the licensing examination, registration and discipline of Chinese medicine practitioners, and the licensing and conduct of Chinese medicines traders, and the registration of proprietary Chinese medicines. The council also co-ordinates and supervises the activities of the boards by examining the proposals, recommendations and reports from the boards; directing the boards to implement such policies and activities as it thinks fit, and handling appeals

against decisions of the boards, as provided for under the Ordinance.

Under the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board, the Registration Committee, Examination Committee, Committee on Assessment of Chinese Medicine Degree Courses and Disciplinary Committee of Chinese Medicine Practitioners have been established. The Registration Committee makes recommendations to the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board on applications for registration as Chinese medicine practitioners, and on the implementation of their continuing education in Chinese medicine. The Examination Committee is responsible for assisting the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board on the arrangement of Registration Assessments for Chinese Medicine Practitioners and on the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Licensing Examination. The Committee on Assessment of Chinese Medicine Degree Courses is responsible for making recommendations to the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board on the assessment of degree courses in Chinese medicine and on the approved courses for undertaking the Licensing Examination. The Disciplinary Committee of Chinese Medicine Practitioners handles disciplinary matters of Chinese medicine practitioners, in accordance with the prescribed procedures. These include making recommendations to the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board for holding inquiries into the

conduct of individual Chinese medicine practitioners. The Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board will arrange dedicated working group where appropriate. In 2003, the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board established a liaison group, whose members including members of Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board and representatives from major local Chinese medicine associations, to formulate guidelines on the issuance of sick leave certificates by registered Chinese medicine practitioners.

Under the Chinese Medicines Board, the Chinese Medicines Committee, Chinese Medicines Traders Committee and Regulatory Committee of Chinese Medicines Traders have been established. The Chinese Medicines Committee is responsible for handling the registration of proprietary Chinese medicines. The Chinese Medicines Traders Committee implements the licensing of Chinese medicines traders. The Regulatory Committee of Chinese Medicines Traders conducts investigations into the conduct of individual Chinese medicines traders if necessary, and makes recommendations to the Chinese Medicines Board as to the appropriate course of action, if any, to be taken concerning the Chinese medicines trader under investigation.

The functions of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong, Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board, Chinese Medicines Board and the various committees are set out in Appendix 3.

The Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong, the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board, the Chinese Medicines Board and each of the committees are established under the principle of 'self-regulation'. The membership consists principally of members of the Chinese medicine profession, as well as representatives of the government and members of the general public. Besides, having regard to the different functions, the committees also include members from other organizations and institutions, such as educational and scientific research institutions, to give professional advice on the work of the committees. The council has also appointed a legal adviser to provide legal advice on the work.

