



Chapter IV

Future Work and Direction of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong

Implementation of System of Continuing Education in Chinese Medicine for Registered CMPs

To formulate a system of continuing education in Chinese medicine (CME system) for registered CMPs which will meet the requirements of the public and the community; upgrade the professional standard of CMPs; and meet the circumstance of the profession, the Practitioners Board will further consult the profession on the proposed CME system and requirements. The Practitioners Board will introduce the details of the proposed CME system to the CMPs associations, training institutes and all registered CMPs, and solicit their views on the CME system through the newsletter issued by the board. Moreover, the Practitioners Board will continue to conduct seminars for providing in-depth explanations of the CME system to the representatives of CMPs associations and training institutes.

After the consultation, the Practitioners Board will consolidate the collected views and set out the requirements and detailed arrangements for the CME system, including the accreditation of recognized CME Administrators and Programme Providers, announcing the schedule on implementation of the CME system, and other relevant details.

Since the CME system has yet to implement (and no CME programmes, Administrators or

Programme Providers have yet been recognized by the Practitioners Board) the required CME points of registered CMPs who obtained their practising certificates before the implementation of the CME system, will be duly adjusted with respect to the remaining validity period of their practising certificates.

Chinese Medicine Practitioners Licensing Examination

The written examination of the 2004 Chinese Medicine Practitioners Licensing Examination will be conducted in June 2004, whereas the clinical examination will be conducted in July to August 2004. The Practitioners Board received 124 applications from applicants who were not listed CMPs during the application period, from 11 November 2003 to 20 December 2003. The applicants can only enroll for the examination after their applications have been approved. To simplify the application procedure, the Practitioners Board delegated the authority to approve applications for CMP licensing examination to the Examination Committee, in accordance with section 157 of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance.

Assessment of Chinese Medicine Degree Courses

The Committee on Assessment of Chinese Medicine Degree Courses (ADCC) plans to re-assess the degree course in Chinese medicine training conducted by three local universities (i.e.

the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the Baptist University of Hong Kong). The scope of assessment covers basic conditions of university and clinical teaching, such as the circumstances of teaching, teaching/experiment facilities, teaching management, library service, standards of teaching staff, standards of students, and clinical training. The ADCC will invite experienced professors of Chinese medicine universities in Mainland China as Chinese medicine consultants, to participate in this assessment work. Besides, the three universities will be required to submit progress report on the recommendations made by the Practitioners Board, following its assessment of their degree courses in Chinese medicine in 2002.

The ADCC will also consider visiting a Chinese medicine university in the Mainland China, to understand further the clinical training provided by Chinese medicine degree courses in the Mainland, and to observe the conduct of clinical training for the students of the local full-time Chinese medicine degree courses.

Work on Licensing of Chinese Medicines Traders

Upon completion of the work on transitional licensing of Chinese medicines traders, the Chinese Medicines Traders Committee would proceed to handle work related to the issue of the formal licences, to replace the transitional licences. To be

qualified for the formal licences, Chinese medicines traders must fulfill all of the licensing requirements. Any Chinese medicines traders who are not issued with the formal licences will not be allowed to continue to operate the relevant business in Chinese medicines in Hong Kong.

Regulatory Work on Chinese Medicines Traders

For any licensed Chinese medicines traders who are suspected to have breached the law, or the licensing requirements or the practising guidelines, the relevant cases shall be submitted to the Regulatory Committee of Chinese Medicines Traders to handle. The committee will follow the procedure as prescribed in the Chinese Medicines Regulation, to examine the matter, and make recommendations to the Medicines Board. The Medicines Board may revoke or suspend the relevant licences, vary the licensing restrictions, or issue warnings to the Chinese medicines traders.

Work on Registration of Proprietary Chinese Medicines

The application period for transitional pCm registration was from 19 December 2003 to 30 June 2004. For pCms that are not qualified for transitional registration, the relevant Chinese medicines traders should also submit application for registration during that period, to facilitate the Medicines Board in processing and issuing the certificates of registration.