



Chapter I

Structure and Functions of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong

The structure and functions of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong (the council) 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; adequate standards of practice and conduct in the trade of Chinese medicines; 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 various committees have been established under these two boards.

Under the policies formulated by the council, the Chinese Medicine Ordinance empowers 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 examination, registration and discipline of Chinese medicine practitioners; 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 Chinese Medicine Ordinance.

Under the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board, there are established the Registration Committee, the Examination Committee, the Committee on Assessment of Chinese Medicine Degree Courses, and the Disciplinary Committee of Chinese Medicine Practitioners. The Registration Committee makes recommendations to the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board on the procedure and assessment of applications for registration as Chinese medicine practitioners. The Examination Committee is responsible for assisting the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board on the arrangements of the Registration Assessment for Listed Chinese Medicine Practitioners and of 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 criteria for assessing 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 concerning Chinese medicine practitioners in accordance with the prescribed procedures, including making recommendations to

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the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board for holding inquiries into the conduct of individual Chinese medicine practitioners.

Under the Chinese Medicines Board, there are established the Chinese Medicines Committee, the Chinese Medicines Traders Committee and the Regulatory Committee of Chinese Medicines Traders. 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 and makes recommendations to the Chinese Medicines Board as to the appropriate course of action to be taken concerning the Chinese medicines trader who is being investigated.

The functions of the council, Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board, Chinese Medicines Board and the various committees are set forth in Appendix 2.

The council, the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board, the Chinese Medicines Board and each of the committees are established under the principle of self-regulation. Their membership consists principally of members of the Chinese medicine profession, as well as representatives of the government and members of the public. Besides, having regard to their 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.

