



Chapter IV

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

The council has been established for more than three years - since 1999. During this period, regulatory measures on Chinese medicine have been implemented progressively. Looking to the future, there is still a lot of work to be done in regulating of Chinese medicine. The council will continue to strive for the enhancement of the Chinese medicine profession in Hong Kong, and to keep abreast of the times.

The council will continue to work on the following tasks.

Chinese Medicine Practitioners Registration Assessment

The Practitioners Board has been conducting Registration Assessment starting from 6 January 2003. The listed CMPs who pass the assessment can apply for registration. Those listed CMPs who cannot pass the assessment can undertake the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Licensing Examination. On passing the examination, they will become qualified to apply for registration as registered CMPs.

Chinese Medicine Practitioner Licensing Examination

The first Chinese Medicine Practitioners Licensing Examination will be held in August 2003. It has been open for application since January 2003 for non-listed CMPs. Listed CMPs who are required to undertake the examination may apply to take the examination in April/May 2003. The Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board plans to conduct the licensing examination once every year, in future.

Work on Discipline of CMPs

To ensure the professional conduct of listed CMPs and registered CMPs, the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board has formulated the "Code of Practice for Registered Chinese Medicine Practitioners in Hong Kong" and the "Code of Practice for Listed Chinese Medicine Practitioners". The Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board, together with the Disciplinary Committee of Chinese Medicine Practitioners under it, have already started work on the discipline of CMPs, and efforts will be stepped up in this field in the future. The contents of the codes of practice will be regularly reviewed, to keep abreast of the times.

The Mechanism for Continuing Medical Education

According to the Chinese Medicine Ordinance, registered CMPs should renew their practising certificates every three years. In applying for renewal of certificates, the requirements on continuing medical education set down by the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board will need to be met. The Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board is now in the course of developing a mechanism for registered CMPs to undertake continuing education. Consideration is being given to authorising recognized institutions to be responsible for conducting training classes and activities, as well as executive agencies to be responsible for assessing educational modules and handling training records of individual registered CMPs.

Licensing of Chinese Medicines Traders and Registration of Proprietary Chinese Medicines

Upon passage of the subsidiary legislation on the regulation of Chinese medicines by the Legislative Council in January 2003, the licensing of Chinese medicines traders is anticipated to commence in the first half of 2003. The registration of proprietary Chinese medicines is planned to begin in late 2003.

