

Chapter 1

Structure of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong

The structure of the Council is specified in the Chinese Medicine Ordinance. The Council is responsible mainly for ensuring the adequate standards of professional practice and professional conduct in the profession of CMPs and in the trade of Chinese medicines; the proper use of Chinese herbal medicines (CHM); and the safety, quality and efficacy of pCm. To implement the regulatory system effectively, the Council is supported by the Practitioners Board and the Medicines Board, and ten committees have been established under these two boards.

The Chinese Medicine Ordinance and the policies formulated by the Council empower the Practitioners Board and the Medicines Board to carry out regulatory measures of CMPs and Chinese medicines. These measures include the examination, registration and discipline of CMPs; the licensing and conduct of Chinese medicines trades; and the registration of pCm. 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 Practitioners Board, the Registration Committee, the Examination Committee, the Committee on Assessment of Chinese Medicine Degree Courses, the Disciplinary Committee of Chinese Medicine Practitioners, the Ethics Committee, the Health Committee and the Health Committee for Listed Chinese Medicine Practitioners have been established. The Registration Committee makes recommendations to the Practitioners Board on applications for registration as CMPs, and on the implementation of their continuing education in Chinese medicine. The Examination Committee is responsible for assisting the Practitioners Board on the vetting of applications and on the arrangement of the CMPs Licensing Examination. The Committee on Assessment

of Chinese Medicine Degree Courses is responsible for making recommendations to the Practitioners Board on the assessment of local 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 CMPs, in accordance with the prescribed procedures. These include making recommendations to the Practitioners Board for holding inquiries into the conduct of individual CMPs. The Ethics Committee is responsible for reviewing the codes of conduct of CMPs and making recommendations to the Practitioners Board in respect of codes of conduct of CMPs and conduct. The Health Committee and the Health Committee for Listed Chinese Medicine Practitioners are responsible for evaluating the physical or mental fitness of any registered CMPs/listed CMPs to practise Chinese medicine, meeting the registered CMP/listed CMP where necessary for assessment, and reporting the findings of the assessment to the Practitioners Board for its consideration. The Practitioners Board will set up specific working groups where appropriate – such as the former liaison group for formulating a reference guide on the issuance of sick leave certificates by registered CMPs and the medical referral working group (whose members include members of the Practitioners Board and representatives from major local Chinese medicine associations).

Under the Medicines Board, the Chinese Medicines Committee, the Chinese Medicines Traders Committee and the Regulatory Committee of Chinese Medicines Traders have been established. The Chinese Medicines Committee is responsible for handling the registration of pCm. The Chinese Medicines Traders Committee is tasked with the licensing of CMTs. The Regulatory Committee of Chinese Medicines Traders conducts investigations into the conduct of individual CMTs when required, and makes recommendations to the Medicines Board.

The functions of the Council, the Practitioners Board, the Medicines Board and the various committees are set out in Appendix 4, pages 128 to 131.

The Council, the Practitioners Board, the Medicines Board and each of the committees are established under the principle of “professional 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 their different functions, the committees

also include members from other organisations and institutions, such as educational and scientific research institutions, to give professional advice on the work of the committees. The Council, the Practitioners Board, the Medicines Board, the Disciplinary Committee of Chinese Medicine Practitioners, the Health Committee, the Health Committee for Listed Chinese Medicine Practitioners, the Chinese Medicines Committee and the Regulatory Committee of Chinese Medicines Traders have appointed legal advisers, to tender legal advice on their work.

The Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong

