

For information

**Medical and Health Care
(Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2001
Number of attempts for taking the Licensing Examination
conducted by regulatory bodies of health care professionals**

Introduction

At the first meeting of the Bills Committee on Medical and Health Care (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2001 held on 26 February 2002, Members requested the Administration to provide information on the number of attempts a candidate is allowed in respect of the respective Licensing Examinations conducted by regulatory bodies of health care professionals.

2. The maximum number of attempts for taking Licensing Examinations conducted by regulatory bodies of health care professionals is stipulated in the relevant Ordinances establishing the respective regulatory bodies. In the case of the supplementary medical professions, Section 15A(a) of the Supplementary Medical Profession Ordinance (SMPO) empowers the statutory boards of each profession governed by the SMPO to specify conditions as regards the eligibility of persons sitting for examination held by the respective boards. The SMP Boards have accordingly specified the number of attempts allowed for candidates taking the respective examinations.

3. The information requested by Members is as follows :-

<u>Profession</u>	<u>Number of Attempts Allowed</u>
(1) Medical Practitioner	5 consecutive times in any one part of the Licensing Examination
(2) Dentist	5 consecutive times in any one part of the Licensing Examination

(3) Nurse

Any person who has, on two occasions, failed to pass an examination required by the relevant regulations shall not be entitled to enter again for that examination unless he has undergone a period of additional training and instruction being not less than six months at a training school approved by the Nursing Council for that branch of nursing in which he has applied to be examined.

Any person who has on three occasions failed to pass an examination required by the relevant regulations shall not, without the special permission of the Nursing Council, be entitled to sit again for that examination.

Except with the special permission of the Nursing Council and subject to such conditions as to training or instruction as the Council may impose, no person who has failed to pass an examination required by the relevant regulations may enter again for such examination if a period exceeding one year has elapsed since the date upon which he last failed to pass such examination.

(4) Midwife

If a person fails on 2 occasions to pass the examination, the person shall not be eligible to take the examination again on any further occasion, unless the person has undergone such period of additional training and instruction, not less than 3 months, as the Council may have directed.

- (5) Pharmacist No limitation.
- (6) Supplementary Medical Professions
- (a) Medical Laboratory Technologists - 3 attempts.
 - (b) Occupational Therapists – 3 consecutive attempts each for the written and viva-voce parts.
 - (c) Radiographers – 3 consecutive attempts for the written part and 2 consecutive attempts for the oral and practical part.
 - (d) Physiotherapists – 3 attempts within 5 years.

Optometrists Board is reviewing its registration system and is not holding any examination currently.

- (7) Chinese Medicine Practitioners
- The Practitioners Board is deliberating on the number of consecutive attempts which a person may make in respect of the Licensing Examination.

Health and Welfare Bureau
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