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## HONG KONG COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS 香港內科醫學院

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

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24 September 2005

Clerk to Bills Committee  
(Attn: Ms Maggie CHIU)  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
3/F Citibank Tower  
3 Garden Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Bills Committee on Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005**

**Meeting on Thursday, 6 October 2005 at 9:00 am  
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

The Hong Kong College of Physicians is pleased to provide a  
written submission for the Bills Committee to consider.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Matthew Ng

Chairman

Professional and General Affairs Committee

Encl

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**HONG KONG COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS**

**Submission to  
Bills Committee on Smoking (Public Health) (Amendment) Bill 2005**

INTRODUCTION

1. The Hong Kong College of Physicians (the College) is pleased to provide a written submission for the Bills Committee to consider.

BACKGROUND

2. Smoking is the single most preventable cause of death and a proven health hazard in our society.
3. Not including the value of pain and suffering, the estimate of the annual health-related costs of tobacco use in 1998 comes to around HK\$5.3 billion. *LC Paper No. CB(2)2097/04-05(01)*
4. Cessation of active and passive smoking has been proven to improve health.
5. The health hazards posed by passive smoking in the workplace on the employees is an important issue to focus on.
6. It has been proposed to expand the “Statutory No Smoking Areas” to include the indoor areas of all restaurants, bars, karaoke establishments, mahjong premises, commercial bathhouses and public markets.

## THE COLLEGE'S SUBMISSION

7. The College is in full support of the proposal of **expanding the Statutory No Smoking Areas** WITHOUT EXCEPTION.
8. This is of utmost importance to protect the customers, as well as the employees from passive smoking in the workplace.
9. The counter-proposal of having individual indoor establishments designated to "smoking" or "non-smoking" is totally unacceptable. The smoking ban should be applied to all in order to have no substantial distorting effects on competitive forces.
10. **Transitional arrangements** to enable the relevant industries to make adjustments are necessary to facilitate compliance with the new statutory requirements. This period should be as short as possible. Three months is enough.
11. There is an obvious **enforcement problem** under the existing anti-smoking law in the absence of a clear-cut direction to follow on making reports on offenders.

Hong Kong College of Physicians  
September 2005