



**Labour Department (Headquarters)**

**勞工處 (總處)**

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21 September 2011

Clerk to Manpower Panel  
Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central  
Hong Kong  
(Attn : Mr Raymond Lam)

Dear Mr Lam,

**Meeting of the Legislative Council Panel  
on Manpower on 17 June 2011**

During the discussion on “Recognition of sick leave certificates issued by registered chiropractors as valid sick leave certificates” at the meeting of 17 June 2011, the Panel on Manpower requested the Administration to set out in writing the factors which the Administration would take into account during its future review and determination of whether the medical certificates issued by chiropractors should be recognized under labour-related legislation. Our response is as follows:

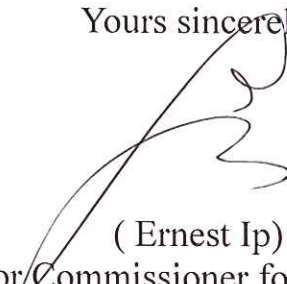
When considering whether the medical certificates issued by practitioners of a healthcare sector should be recognised under labour-related legislation, the Administration has to take various factors into account. They include but are not limited to the following factors:

- The scope, development and popularity of the healthcare sector;
- The community knowledge and acceptance of the healthcare sector;
- The views and concerns of stakeholders, including those who will take on new legal obligations;
- The availability of sufficient ancillary facilities which can make the implementation of the proposal feasible; and
- Other regions’ situation and experiences, etc.

The Administration will conduct an overall assessment objectively, taking into account the unique circumstances of Hong Kong.

While the Administration is of the view that it would not be appropriate to recognise the medical certificates issued by chiropractors at this stage, we would continue to review the matter. In order to gain an updated and thorough understanding of the community's knowledge and utilisation of chiropractic treatment, the Census and Statistics Department has been commissioned to conduct a comprehensive survey, which is tentatively scheduled to be conducted in the second half of 2012. At the same time, the Administration will continue to communicate with the stakeholders and closely monitor the latest development of chiropractic in Hong Kong and other regions.

Yours sincerely,



( Ernest Ip)  
for Commissioner for Labour