



**香港大學兒童及青少年科學系**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**LKS FACULTY OF MEDICINE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRICS AND**  
**ADOLESCENT MEDICINE**

Main Office: Queen Mary Hospital, Pokfulam, Hong Kong  
Tel: (852)2255 4482/2255 4295 Fax: (852)2855 1523

**Submission to Panel on Health Services on the regulation of  
formula products and foods for infants and young children**

**Head**

Prof Chan GCF 陳志峰

**Staff**

Prof Lau YL 劉宇隆  
Prof Wong VCN 黃珍妮  
Prof Lau ASY 劉錫賢  
Prof Cheung YF 張耀輝  
Dr Tsoi NS 蔡迺舜  
Dr Cheung PT 張璧濤  
Dr Ha SY 夏修賢  
Dr Chau AKT 周啟東  
Dr Yung TC 翁德璋  
Dr Chan SY 陳小圓  
Dr Tsang AMC 曾雯清  
Dr Ng YK 吳耀基  
Dr Lun KS 倫建成  
Dr Lee SL 李素輪  
Dr Wong KY 黃嘉賢  
Dr Chiang AKS 蔣國誠  
Dr Chiu SS 招瑞生  
Dr Tu W 涂文偉  
Dr Lee TL 李子良  
Dr Ip P 葉柏強  
Dr Chung BHY 鍾侃言  
Dr Yang W 楊萬嶺  
Dr Chan S 陳凱珊  
Dr Yung AWY 楊穎欣  
Dr Chim S 詹愷怡  
Dr Wong MS 黃明沁  
Dr Ho HK 何學工  
Dr Fung CW 馮卓穎  
Dr Chow PC 周百昌  
Dr Chan SY 陳樹仁  
Dr Cheuk KL 卓家良  
Dr Ho PK 何寶琪

20 November 2012

Drs. Chun-bong CHOW, Patrick IP, Rosanna Ming-sum WONG & Prof Godfrey Chi-fung CHAN

Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

As a key clinical institution looking after child health and academic department training health care professionals, we support the government's proposal on the regulation of infant formula products and foods for infants and young children under 3 years of age and would like to highlight the following points:

1. Breast feeding is the normal, physiologic way to feed babies and provides the best form of infant nutrition.
2. "Not breastfeeding" increases the risk of adverse health outcomes in infant (e.g. sudden infant death, otitis media, gastrointestinal infection, skin and airway allergy, obesity, diabetes) and mother (e.g. breast cancer, ovarian cancer).
3. Health benefits to the society in ensuring exclusive breastfeeding of all infants are thus tremendous not taking into account economic advantages.
4. Scientific studies from the States and Europe already showed the negative effects of infant formula marketing on the continuation and exclusivity of breastfeeding. Hence parents should be protected from commercial infant formula marketing through proper regulation of formula products in Hong Kong.
5. Freedom on trade or advertisement must not surpass our mother and children's right to health, infant formula should not be marketed or distributed in any environment in ways that may interfere with the protection and promotion of breastfeeding.
6. Regulation of nutrition information for infant and special dietary foods should be a basic task of the government as all such foods are targeted at the more vulnerable subgroups of the population with special dietary needs.
7. Review on introducing appropriate regulations to govern nutritional composition and labelling of infant and special dietary foods marketed in Hong Kong is critical.
8. Government should develop an appropriate monitoring and sanction mechanism to ensure compliance of the Hong Kong Code.
9. A high-level, Central Committee on Breastfeeding composed of representatives from relevant government and university departments, health professional associations, and NGOs should be established to develop multi-pronged policy and regulatory strategy to promote, coordinate, support and monitor exclusive breastfeeding for all babies in Hong Kong.