



Room 901, Hang Shing Bldg., 363-373 Nathan Road, Kowloon.  
Email: [hkdu@hkdu.org](mailto:hkdu@hkdu.org) Home page: <http://www.hkdu.org>  
Tel. No.: 2388 2728 Fax: 2385 5275

Our ref.: HKDU/069/2013

15<sup>th</sup> May 2013

By fax & mail

Dr. Leung Ka Lau  
Panel on Health Services, Chairman

Dear Dr. Leung,

**Re: Measures on regulating Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs)**

Hong Kong Doctors Union is established under the Ordinance of Trade Union in Hong Kong and looks after the employer-employee relationship of both public and private medical practitioners.

Commercial profiteering HMOs have been set up in Hong Kong and its irregularities attracted such concern from the public and so much attention in the Media that the Department of Health has established a special working group to address the issue in 2007. However, we are all surprised by the authorities' attitude to be in favour of allowing HMOs to prosper instead of putting them under control.

All along, we have been asking the Government to regulate the HMOs. To show our concern, we have met with the special working group from the Department of Health to discuss in details how to regulate the HMOs effectively for the protection of public health.

**Once again our Union would like to propose a new HMO regulation system with legal binding power for your consideration.**

(i) We propose a "Medical Liaison License" which is renewable annually and issued by the Medical Council of Hong Kong which will examine the applicant's contract terms with its panel doctors. The Medical Council of Hong Kong is the best authority in ensuring proper medical standards.

We believe such system is effective and practical and will be supported by healthcare organizations.

(ii) The percentage of shares of the HMOs owned by doctors should be equal to or more than 90% of the entire issued shares of the organizations.

(iii) Appointment of registered medical doctor as Medical Director for the HMO and he will be responsible for all the works of the organization.

**Only by legislating these requirements together with the registration of HMOs by the licensing mechanism can the health of the public be safeguarded.**

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ho Ock Ling Thomas  
Hon. Secretary  
Hong Kong Doctors Union

Outgoing15