

**For discussion
on 20 April 2015**

Legislative Council Panel on Health Services

**Revision of Fees and Charges for Services Not Directly Affecting
People's Livelihood under the Purview of the Department of Health**

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' views on the proposal to revise 118 statutory fee items relating to the registration of healthcare professionals under the purview of the Department of Health (DH).

BACKGROUND

2. In line with the "user pays" principle, it is Government's policy that fees and charges of Government services should in general be set at levels sufficient to recover the full cost of providing the services. In the 2013-14 Budget Speech, the Financial Secretary stressed that the Government needs to ensure a stable income by preserving tax revenue and adhering to the "user pays" principle in order to uphold fiscal sustainability and prudent management of public finances. To prevent cost recovery items from being turned into heavily subsidised items, the Government would review the fees and charges. The Government would first deal with fees that have not been revised for years and do not directly affect people's livelihood, as well as items which have low cost recovery rates. The Government had also undertaken that there would not be substantial revisions at one go to avoid affecting people's livelihood.

FEE PROPOSAL

3. Against the above background, DH has reviewed the statutory fees relating to the registration of healthcare professionals. These fee items are prescribed in the following subsidiary legislation –

- (a) Second Schedule to Dentists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations (Cap. 156A);
- (b) Regulation 4(4) of Ancillary Dental Workers (Dental Hygienists) Regulations (Cap. 156B);
- (c) Schedule to Medical Registration (Fees) Regulation (Cap. 161C);
- (d) Schedule to Midwives Registration (Fees) Regulation (Cap. 162B);
- (e) Second Schedule to Nurses (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations (Cap. 164A);
- (f) Second Schedule to Enrolled Nurses (Enrolment and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations (Cap. 164B);
- (g) Third Schedule to Medical Laboratory Technologists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations (Cap. 359A)
- (h) Third Schedule to Occupational Therapists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations (Cap. 359B);
- (i) Third Schedule to Optometrists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation (Cap. 359F);
- (j) Third Schedule to Radiographers (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation (Cap. 359H);
- (k) Third Schedule to Physiotherapists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation (Cap. 359J);
- (l) Schedule to Chiropractors Registration (Fees) Regulation (Cap. 428A); and
- (m) Schedule to Chinese Medicine Practitioners (Fees) Regulation (Cap. 549B).

4. A total of 118 fee items are involved in the current fee revision exercise. These fees were last revised between 2000 and 2006, and DH's costing review shows that their current cost recovery levels range from 11% to 116%. In order to achieve full cost recovery gradually and avoid a steep fee increase, we have adopted the following guidelines for the fee revision in our proposal –

- (a) for items with an existing cost recovery rate of less than 40%, adopt an increase of about 20%;
- (b) for items with an existing cost recovery rate of 40% to 70%, adopt an increase of about 15%;
- (c) for items with an existing cost recovery rate of over 70%, adopt an increase of about 10% or less; and
- (d) for items with an existing cost recovery rate of over 100%, adjust downwards to the full cost recovery level.

5. Accordingly, we propose to adjust the 118 fee items as set out at Annex A. Among them, 117 fees are proposed to be increased by 7% to 20%, while the remaining fee (item 108 in Annex A) to be reduced by 14%. With the proposed fee levels, the cost recovery rate of these statutory fee items will be improved to the range of 13% to 100%. All the fees should have relatively little impact on the daily life of the general public or general business activities.

6. The costs of these fee items will be reviewed regularly and we will submit fee revision proposals as and when necessary, having regard to the “user pays” principle.

Licensing Examination for Medical Practitioners (items 28 to 31)

7. The Licensing Examination for medical practitioners is for providing an avenue for those medical graduates from other jurisdictions who wish to register as medical practitioners with the Medical Council of Hong Kong. It comprises three parts, namely, Part I – Examination in Professional Knowledge, Part II – Proficiency Test in Medical English, and Part III – Clinical Examination. The Licensing Examination, which is

pitched at a level on par with the qualifying examination on Medicine and Surgery for undergraduates of the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, has all along been run by the two universities. Starting from 2014, the number of Licensing Examination sitting has been increased to twice a year.

8. As in the last fee revision exercise in 2006, the cost incurred by the two universities (*including setting examination questions, providing examiners, testing candidates in hospital environment with patient participation*) has not been included in computing the full cost and only the cost incurred by the Medical Council Secretariat in arranging the examination is recovered from the candidates. Based on the existing computation methodology, the recovery rates for Parts I, II and III are 94%, 52% and 75% respectively. However, if the cost incurred by the two universities is to be factored into the calculation (about \$9 million at 2015-16 price level), the cost recovery rate would drop to 38%, 42% and 5% for Parts I, II and III respectively.

9. To avoid increasing the fees to a prohibitively high level which would discourage eligible candidates from sitting the Licensing Examination, we consider that the existing calculation methodology should remain unchanged for the time being. Nevertheless, this computation methodology would be reviewed in future when these examination fees have all been revised to a level close to the full recovery of the cost incurred by the Medical Council Secretariat.

EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT MEASURES

10. DH will continue to enhance efficiency and streamline procedures so as to contain the costs of providing such services to the public.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11. If the fee revision proposal as set out at **Annex A** is implemented, the estimated net increase in revenue is about \$3.5 million per annum.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

12. We have sought the views of the bodies at **Annex B** on the fee proposal. Members of these bodies generally have no objection to the proposed fee revision.

NEXT STEPS

13. To give effect to the proposed fee revision, amendments to the relevant subsidiary legislation are required. The Administration plans to table the relevant legislative amendments before the Legislative Council within the 2014-15 legislative session.

ADVICE SOUGHT

14. Members are invited to comment on the fee revision proposal at **Annex A**.

**Food and Health Bureau
Department of Health
April 2015**

Proposed revision of fees relating to the registration of healthcare professionals under the Department of Health

Item no.	Fee description	Last revision date	Existing fee	Existing cost recovery rate at 2015-16 price level	Proposed fee	Change in amount	Change in percentage	Cost recovery rate after fee adjustment
			\$	%	\$	\$	%	%
Dentists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations (Cap. 156A)								
1	Registration	1/1/2001	1,890	59%	2,170	280	15%	67%
2	Inclusion of name in the Specialist Register under section 12B of the Ordinance	30/11/2006 (Note 1)	1,890	52%	2,170	280	15%	59%
3	Re-registration	1/7/2006	1,820	70%	2,090	270	15%	80%
4	Certificate of standing	1/7/2006	515	58%	590	75	15%	67%
5	Certificate verifying registration or the inclusion of name in the Specialist Register	1/7/2006 (Note 2)	515	59%	590	75	15%	67%
6	Alteration to the General Register or Specialist Register	1/7/2006 (Note 2)	675	63%	775	100	15%	72%
7	Certified copy of an entry in the General Register or Specialist Register	1/7/2006 (Note 2)	520	59%	600	80	15%	68%
8	Duplicate certificate of registration or duplicate certificate for the inclusion of name in the Specialist	1/7/2006 (Note 2)	585	62%	675	90	15%	72%

^{Note 1} This fee item was introduced on 30 November 2006 when the Specialist Register of the Dental Council of Hong Kong came into operation upon enactment of the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2006.

^{Note 2} For those parts related to the Specialist Register, the last revision date refers to 30 November 2006 when the Specialist Register of the Dental Council of Hong Kong came into operation upon enactment of the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2006.

Item no.	Fee description	Last revision date	Existing fee	Existing cost recovery rate at 2015-16 price level	Proposed fee	Change in amount	Change in percentage	Cost recovery rate after fee adjustment
			\$	%	\$	\$	%	%
	Register							
9	Certified copy of certificate of registration or certificate for the inclusion of name in the Specialist Register	1/7/2006 (Note 2)	585	62%	675	90	15%	72%
10	Practising certificate - for a dentist whose name is on the General Register for dentists resident in Hong Kong	1/7/2006	505	84%	555	50	10%	92%
11	Practising certificate - for a person deemed to be a registered dentist under section 30(3)(a) of the Ordinance	1/7/2006	505	60%	580	75	15%	69%
12	Entrance for examination, in each part	1/7/2006	5,050	44%	5,810	760	15%	50%
Ancillary Dental Workers (Dental Hygienists) Regulations (Cap. 156B)								
13	Enrolment fee for dental hygienists	1/7/2006	1,770	61%	2,040	270	15%	70%
Medical Registration (Fees) Regulation (Cap. 161C)								
14	Registration in Part I of the General Register	1/7/2006	1,060	51%	1,220	160	15%	59%
15	Registration in Part II of the General Register	1/7/2006	335	37%	400	65	19%	44%

^{Note 2} For those parts related to the Specialist Register, the last revision date refers to 30 November 2006 when the Specialist Register of the Dental Council of Hong Kong came into operation upon enactment of the Dentists Registration (Amendment) Ordinance 2006.

Item no.	Fee description	Last revision date	Existing fee	Existing cost recovery rate at 2015-16 price level	Proposed fee	Change in amount	Change in percentage	Cost recovery rate after fee adjustment
			\$	%	\$	\$	%	%
16	Registration in Part III of the General Register	1/7/2006	1,100	42%	1,270	170	15%	49%
17	Inclusion of name in the Specialist Register	1/7/2006	1,060	44%	1,220	160	15%	51%
18	Restoration to the General or Specialist Register	1/7/2006	690	53%	795	105	15%	61%
19	Certificate of good standing	1/1/2001	370	61%	425	55	15%	70%
20	Certificate verifying registration in the General Register, or inclusion of name in the Specialist Register	1/7/2006	320	55%	370	50	16%	63%
21	Alteration to the General or Specialist Register	1/7/2006	345	41%	395	50	14%	47%
22	Certified copy of an entry in the General or Specialist Register	1/7/2006	425	56%	490	65	15%	64%
23	Practising certificate - for a medical practitioner registered under section 14 of the Ordinance in the General Register	1/7/2006	350	70%	405	55	16%	81%
24	Practising certificate - for a medical practitioner registered with limited registration under section 14A of the Ordinance	1/7/2006	350	70%	405	55	16%	81%
25	Practising certificate - for a medical practitioner registered with temporary registration under section 14B of the Ordinance	1/7/2006	250	11%	300	50	20%	13%
26	Retention fee for certificate under section 19A of the	1/7/2006	320	64%	370	50	16%	74%

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	Ordinance							
27	Application under section 7A(1)(a) of the Ordinance	1/7/2006	1,380	51%	1,590	210	15%	59%
28	Licensing examination fees - examination in professional knowledge	1/7/2006	3,010	94% (38%) (Note 3)	3,220	210	7%	100%
29	Licensing examination fees - proficiency test in medical English	1/7/2006	1,610	52% (42%) (Note 3)	1,850	240	15%	59%
30	Licensing examination fees - clinical examination	1/7/2006	3,220	75% (5%) (Note 3)	3,540	320	10%	83%
31	Licensing examination fees - any one discipline in the clinical examination	1/7/2006	1,200	59% (7%) (Note 3)	1,380	180	15%	68%
32	Certified copy of record of training received during the period of assessment under section 10A of the Ordinance	1/7/2006	360	24%	430	70	19%	29%
Midwives Registration (Fees) Regulation (Cap. 162B)								

^{Note 3} As in the last fee revision exercise in 2006, the cost incurred by the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (including setting examination questions and providing examiners) has not been factored into the unit cost computation in deriving the fee revision proposal. The existing cost recovery rates are computed based on the cost incurred by the Medical Council Secretariat in arranging the examination only. The percentage in brackets denotes the cost recovery rate if the computation methodology is changed to include the expenses incurred by the two universities. Please refer to paragraphs 7-9 of the paper.

Item no.	Fee description	Last revision date	Existing fee	Existing cost recovery rate at 2015-16 price level	Proposed fee	Change in amount	Change in percentage	Cost recovery rate after fee adjustment
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33	Registration fees payable on first registration - in the case of a person who has completed training in midwifery in Hong Kong	1/1/2001	305	59%	350	45	15%	68%
34	Registration fees payable on first registration - in the case of a person who has completed training in midwifery outside Hong Kong	1/1/2001	1,000	65%	1,150	150	15%	75%
35	Registration fees payable on application for restoration of the name of a person to the register	1/1/2001	145	64%	165	20	14%	72%
36	Replacement copy of a certificate of registration or replacement copy of a practising certificate	1/1/2001	185	51%	215	30	16%	59%
37	Issuance of a practising certificate under section 22 of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	225	43%	260	35	16%	49%
38	Entrance fee for examination	1/1/2001	1,425	89%	1,570	145	10%	98%
Nurses (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations (Cap. 164A)								
39	For registration in any part of the register - person qualified in Hong Kong	1/1/2001	360	48%	415	55	15%	55%
40	For registration in any part of the register - person qualified elsewhere	1/1/2001	1,035	48%	1,190	155	15%	55%
41	For practising certificate	1/1/2001	200	47%	230	30	15%	54%
42	For replacement copy of certificate of registration or practising certificate	1/1/2001	175	52%	200	25	14%	60%

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43	For restoration of name to any part of register	1/1/2001	245	48%	280	35	14%	55%
44	Entrance fees for any examination	1/7/2006	715	33%	860	145	20%	40%
45	Entrance fees for any re-examination	1/7/2006	715	33%	860	145	20%	40%
46	For request for review of result of examination	14/2/2003	425	48%	490	65	15%	55%
47	For certificate verifying registration	1/1/2001	170	51%	195	25	15%	59%
Enrolled Nurses (Enrolment and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations (Cap. 164B)								
48	For enrolment in any part of the roll - person qualified in Hong Kong	1/1/2001	360	47%	415	55	15%	54%
49	For enrolment in any part of the roll - person qualified elsewhere	1/1/2001	1,035	48%	1,190	155	15%	55%
50	For practising certificate	1/1/2001	200	47%	230	30	15%	54%
51	For replacement copy of certificate of enrolment or practising certificate	1/1/2001	175	52%	200	25	14%	60%
52	For restoration of name to any part of the roll	1/1/2001	245	48%	280	35	14%	55%
53	Entrance fees for any examination	1/7/2006	765	36%	920	155	20%	43%
54	Entrance fees for any re-examination	1/7/2006	765	36%	920	155	20%	43%
55	For request for review of result of examination	14/2/2003	425	48%	490	65	15%	55%

Item no.	Fee description	Last revision date	Existing fee	Existing cost recovery rate at 2015-16 price level	Proposed fee	Change in amount	Change in percentage	Cost recovery rate after fee adjustment
			\$	%	\$	\$	%	%
56	For certificate verifying enrolment	1/1/2001	170	51%	195	25	15%	59%
Medical Laboratory Technologists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations (Cap. 359A)								
57	Any alteration to the register under section 10(2)	1/1/2001	400	42%	460	60	15%	48%
58	Restoration to the register under section 10(5)	1/1/2001	510	41%	585	75	15%	47%
59	Registration under section 13	1/1/2001	1,155	44%	1,330	175	15%	50%
60	Certified copy of a certificate of registration under section 14(3)	1/1/2001	270	47%	310	40	15%	54%
61	Duplicate certificate of registration under section 14(7)	1/1/2001	315	42%	360	45	14%	48%
62	Certificate of standing under section 14A	1/1/2001	625	43%	720	95	15%	49%
63	Certificate verifying registration under section 14A	1/1/2001	475	43%	545	70	15%	49%
64	Examination fee for an examination under section 15A	1/7/2006	1,460	26%	1,750	290	20%	31%
65	Practising certificate issued under section 16	1/1/2001	395	84%	435	40	10%	93%
Occupational Therapists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulations (Cap. 359B)								
66	Any alteration to the register under section 10(2)	1/1/2001	400	42%	460	60	15%	48%
67	Restoration to the register under section 10(5)	1/1/2001	510	41%	585	75	15%	47%

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68	Registration under section 13	1/1/2001	1,155	44%	1,330	175	15%	50%
69	Certified copy of a certificate of registration under section 14(3)	1/1/2001	270	47%	310	40	15%	54%
70	Duplicate certificate of registration under section 14(7)	1/1/2001	315	42%	360	45	14%	48%
71	Certificate of standing under section 14A	1/1/2001	625	43%	720	95	15%	49%
72	Certificate verifying registration under section 14A	1/1/2001	475	43%	545	70	15%	49%
73	Examination fee for an examination under section 15A	1/7/2006	1,460	26%	1,750	290	20%	31%
74	Practising certificate issued under section 16	1/1/2001	395	84%	435	40	10%	93%
Optometrists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation (Cap. 359F)								
75	Registration under section 13 of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	1,155	44%	1,330	175	15%	50%
76	Practising certificate issued under section 16 of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	395	84%	435	40	10%	93%
77	Certified copy of a certificate of registration under section 14(3) of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	270	47%	310	40	15%	54%
78	Duplicate certificate of registration under section 14(7) of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	315	42%	360	45	14%	48%
79	Restoration to the register under section 10(5) of the	1/1/2001	510	41%	585	75	15%	47%

Item no.	Fee description	Last revision date	Existing fee	Existing cost recovery rate at 2015-16 price level	Proposed fee	Change in amount	Change in percentage	Cost recovery rate after fee adjustment
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	Ordinance							
80	Certificate of standing under section 14A of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	625	43%	720	95	15%	49%
81	Examination fee for an examination for the purpose of section 12(1)(a) of the Ordinance	1/7/2006	1,460	26%	1,750	290	20%	31%
82	Certificate verifying registration under section 14A of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	475	43%	545	70	15%	49%
Radiographers (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation (Cap. 359H)								
83	Registration under section 13 of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	1,155	44%	1,330	175	15%	50%
84	Practising certificate issued under section 16 of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	395	84%	435	40	10%	93%
85	Certified copy of a certificate of registration under section 14(3) of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	270	47%	310	40	15%	54%
86	Duplicate certificate of registration under section 14(7) of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	315	42%	360	45	14%	48%
87	Restoration to the register under section 10(5) of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	510	41%	585	75	15%	47%
88	Certificate of standing under section 14A of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	625	43%	720	95	15%	49%
89	Examination fee for an examination for the purpose of section 15A of the Ordinance	1/7/2006	1,460	26%	1,750	290	20%	31%

Item no.	Fee description	Last revision date	Existing fee	Existing cost recovery rate at 2015-16 price level	Proposed fee	Change in amount	Change in percentage	Cost recovery rate after fee adjustment
			\$	%	\$	\$	%	%
90	Certificate verifying registration under section 14A of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	475	43%	545	70	15%	49%
Physiotherapists (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation (Cap. 359J)								
91	Registration under section 13 of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	1,155	44%	1,330	175	15%	50%
92	Practising certificate issued under section 16 of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	395	84%	435	40	10%	93%
93	Certified copy of a certificate of registration under section 14(3) of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	270	47%	310	40	15%	54%
94	Duplicate certificate of registration under section 14(7) of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	315	42%	360	45	14%	48%
95	Restoration to the register under section 10(5) of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	510	41%	585	75	15%	47%
96	Certificate of standing under section 14A of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	625	43%	720	95	15%	49%
97	Examination fee for any examination conducted under section 15A of the Ordinance	1/7/2006	1,460	26%	1,750	290	20%	31%
98	Certificate verifying registration under section 14A of the Ordinance	1/1/2001	475	43%	545	70	15%	49%
Chiropractors Registration (Fees) Regulation (Cap. 428A)								
99	Application for registration under section 10 of the Ordinance	1/7/2006	3,360	34%	4,030	670	20%	41%

Item no.	Fee description	Last revision date	Existing fee	Existing cost recovery rate at 2015-16 price level	Proposed fee	Change in amount	Change in percentage	Cost recovery rate after fee adjustment
			\$	%	\$	\$	%	%
100	Application for issue of a practising certificate under section 12 of the Ordinance	1/7/2006	1,360	81%	1,500	140	10%	89%
101	Application for renewal of a practising certificate under section 12 of the Ordinance	1/7/2006	1,360	81%	1,500	140	10%	89%
102	Certificate of registration issued under section 14 of the Ordinance	1/7/2006	2,610	77%	2,870	260	10%	85%
103	Restoration of an applicant's name to the register under section 20 of the Ordinance	1/7/2006	720	43%	830	110	15%	50%
104	Certificate signed by the Secretary, certifying any of the following – (a) that the name of a person has been entered in the register (b) that the name of a person has not been entered in the register (c) that the name of a person has been removed from the register (d) that the name of a person has been ordered to be removed from the register	1/7/2006	770	80%	845	75	10%	88%
105	Certificate signed by the Secretary, certifying that at a date specified in the certificate a person is not or was not the holder of a practising certificate then in force	1/7/2006	770	80%	845	75	10%	88%

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			\$	%	\$	\$	%	%
Chinese Medicine Practitioners (Fees) Regulation (Cap. 549B)								
106	Application for registration as a registered Chinese medicine practitioner	1/7/2006	885	44%	1,020	135	15%	50%
107	Application for or renewal of registration as a registered Chinese medicine practitioner with limited registration	1/7/2006	960	41%	1,100	140	15%	47%
108	Restoration to the Register	1/7/2006	665	116%	575	-90	-14%	100%
109	Application for the issue or renewal of a practising certificate	16/8/2000	1,225	92%	1,330	105	9%	100%
110	Application for taking the Licensing Examination	1/7/2006	1,120	24%	1,340	220	20%	29%
111	Taking Licensing Examination - Part I	1/7/2006	2,030	40%	2,340	310	15%	46%
112	Taking Licensing Examination - Part II	1/7/2006	2,960	34%	3,550	590	20%	41%
113	Review of results of the Licensing Examination - Part I	1/7/2006	785	25%	940	155	20%	29%
114	Review of results of the Licensing Examination - Part II	1/7/2006	900	11%	1,080	180	20%	14%
115	Certificate verifying registration in the Register	16/8/2000	280	63%	320	40	14%	72%
116	Certified copy of an entry in the Register	1/7/2006	295	60%	340	45	15%	70%

Item no.	Fee description	Last revision date	Existing fee	Existing cost recovery rate at 2015-16 price level	Proposed fee	Change in amount	Change in percentage	Cost recovery rate after fee adjustment
			\$	%	\$	\$	%	%
117	Duplicate of a certificate of passing the Licensing Examination	1/7/2006	110	47%	125	15	14%	53%
118	Certificate of standing	16/8/2000	280	59%	320	40	14%	67%

Public consultation on the proposed revision of fees relating to the registration of healthcare professionals under the Department of Health

The views of the following bodies have been sought on the proposed fee revision:

1. Dental Council of Hong Kong
2. Medical Council of Hong Kong
3. Midwives Council of Hong Kong
4. Nursing Council of Hong Kong
5. Supplementary Medical Professions Council
6. Medical Laboratory Technologists Board
7. Occupational Therapists Board
8. Optometrists Board
9. Radiographers Board
10. Physiotherapists Board
11. Chiropractors Council
12. Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong