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For information

Legislative Council Panel on Health Services

**Subcommittee on Issues Relating to
the Development of Chinese Medicine**

**Continuing Education for Registered Chinese Medicine Practitioners and
Professional Specialisation of Chinese Medicine Practitioners**

Purpose

This paper outlines the continuing education arrangement for registered Chinese medicine practitioners (“CMPs”) and provides an overview of the professional specialisation of CMPs for Members’ reference.

Background

2. The professional specialisation of CMPs, Chinese medicine services and personnel training are complementary to each other. According to the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549), registered CMPs must fulfill the requirements of continuing education in Chinese medicine (“CME”) as prescribed by the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board (“Practitioners Board”) of the Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong (“CMCHK”) before they can renew their practising certificates. On 28 February 2005, the Practitioners Board formally implemented CME system for registered CMPs, and shortlisted the accredited CME Administrators and CME Programme Providers under the CME system. The relevant lists can be downloaded from the web site of the CMCHK.

3. The CME system for registered CMPs is an integral component of the registration system of CMPs. Under sections 76 and 82 of the Chinese Medicine Ordinance, registered CMPs must fulfill CME requirements as prescribed by the Practitioners Board before they can renew their practising certificates. The main purpose of establishing the CME system is to put in place a unified and structured system, under which registered CMPs are required to, through continuing education, keep on upgrading their professional knowledge and skills, enhance their understanding of the latest development of their profession and areas of practice, ensure their professional standard will be

advanced with times, and maintain their professional qualification as practising CMPs.

4. The scope of CME for registered CMPs should tie in with the related practising knowledge and skills in the profession of Chinese medicine, so as to ensure that registered CMPs are equipped with up-to-date professional knowledge. Apart from the syllabus of the Chinese Medicine Practitioners Licensing Examination, the scope of CME includes relevant areas such as integration of Chinese-Western medicine, modernisation of Chinese medicine, the Chinese Medicine Ordinance, and the Code of Practice for Registered Chinese Medicine Practitioners. CME programmes can only be accredited for CME point's acquisition if they fall within the scope of CME defined by the Practitioners Board.

5. The practising certificates of registered CMPs should normally be renewed every three years. As mentioned above, registered CMPs must fulfill CME requirements as prescribed by the Practitioners Board before they can renew their practising certificates. Therefore, the CME cycle for each registered CMP, which commences on the effective date of his/her practicing certificate and ends on the expiry date, will normally last for three years. Registered CMPs should participate in CME activities and attain a minimum of 60 CME points in each cycle (three-year) as required. Excess CME points accumulated in one cycle cannot be carried forward to the following cycle. Any registered CMP who fails to acquire the required CME points within the specified CME cycle should submit a written report explaining the reasons for the failure, together with the relevant proofs, to the Practitioners Board before the end of the CME cycle. The Practitioners Board may issue a warning to such registered CMP who should then, within the new CME cycle, acquire the CME points required for that new CME cycle as well as making up the points in short for the previous cycle. If the total CME points required for the two cycles still cannot be acquired at the end of the new CME cycle, his/her practicing certificate will not be renewed until all CME points in short have been made up.

Continuing Education for CMPs

6. As mentioned in paragraph 2 above, the Practitioners Board has shortlisted the accredited CME Administrators and CME Programme Providers under the CME system. The former is responsible for setting up personal CME records for registered CMPs whereas the latter is responsible for organising CME courses and programmes. Each registered CMP should select on his/her own

an accredited CME Administrator for setting up his/her personal CME record, attend CME courses and programmes as required by the Practitioners Board and submit relevant information to his/her accredited CME Administrator. The list of accredited CME Programme Providers is at the **Annex**. As mentioned in paragraph 4 above, the CME programmes are closely related to Chinese medicine services. The Practitioners Board may revise the CME requirements as well as the categories and assessment criteria of accredited CME programmes, in response to time, changes and demand with respect to social environment and professional requirements, etc.

7. Apart from the undergraduate degree courses in Chinese medicine, three universities (including Hong Kong Baptist University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and The University of Hong Kong) organise other master or doctorate degree courses related to Chinese medicine. The Hospital Authority (“HA”) also provides on-the-job training for CMPs working at the Chinese Medicine Centres for Training and Research (“CMCTRs”) with details set out below.

CMCTRs

8. To promote the development of “evidence-based” Chinese medicine and provide training placements for graduates of local Chinese medicine degree courses, the Government gradually established CMCTRs in the 18 districts since 2003, with the 18th one set up in the Islands District in mid-2014. The CMCTRs operate in a tripartite collaboration model involving the HA, non-governmental organisations (“NGOs”) and local universities that offer Chinese medicine degree courses. These NGOs are responsible for the day-to-day clinic operation. Fresh graduates of local full-time Chinese medicine undergraduate degree courses can choose to apply for working at CMCTRs and receive on-the-job training; they will be employed as junior CMPs in the first year and as CMP trainees in the second and third years. Every NGO that operates CMCTRs is required to employ at least 12 junior CMPs/CMP trainees and provide them with training.

On-the-job Training and Development

9. The HA has developed the following CME training programmes for CMPs working at the CMCTRs:

- (i) Training courses in modern western medicine (with a total of 1 018 participants from 2009 to 2015)
- (ii) Visiting scholar scheme (with a total of 39 Chinese medicine experts from Mainland institutions providing a total of 74 clinical teaching and experience sharing sessions in Hong Kong from 2009 to 2015)
- (iii) Training in scientific research knowledge of Chinese medicine (a series of training including scientific research ethics, methodology, statistical analysis and skills of drafting proposals, has been provided since 2009, and the outcomes achieved in respect of the “evidence-based” Chinese medicine were shared through sponsoring research projects and co-organising seminars with different institutions)
- (iv) Pre-employment training for junior CMPs (face-to-face courses, on-line learning modules and visits to various medical service units have been included since 2003)

The above courses catering for clinical needs can equip CMPs with the relevant research knowledge and therapy technologies, and enable new CMPs to gain a better understanding of the operation of the CMCTRs and the workflow of the HA’s hospitals.

10. To enhance CMPs’ clinical professional standard and teaching capabilities in selected disease areas, and to establish a quality professional CMP team in the long run, the HA has set up junior and senior scholarship scheme to encourage the serving CMPs to attend courses offered by various training bodies on the Mainland. From 2009 to 2015, there were a total of 81 and 25 CMPs participating in the junior and senior scholarship scheme respectively; and received training at various Chinese medicine institutions in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Guangzhou.

Integrated Chinese-Western Medicine (“ICWM”) Pilot Programme

11. The Chief Executive announced in the 2014 Policy Address that the Government had reserved a site in Tseung Kwan O for the development of a Chinese medicine hospital. Apart from providing in-patient service for the public, the proposed Chinese medicine hospital can provide facilities to support the Schools of Chinese Medicine of the three local universities, in terms of teaching, clinical practice and scientific research on Chinese medicine. It will

help strengthen and enhance the quality of professional training for CMPs, as well as scientific research on Chinese medicine in Hong Kong.

12. Since Chinese medicine in-patient service is novel in Hong Kong, we agree with the recommendations of the Chinese Medicine Development Committee (“CMDC”) that specific research and pilot projects should be conducted before the establishment of the Chinese medicine hospital. This will help gather experience on the ICWM and operation of Chinese medicine in-patient service, which will form the basis for formulating the mode of operation of the Chinese medicine hospital.

13. To this end, the HA launched the Phase I of the ICWM Pilot Programme in September 2014 in its three public hospitals to provide in-patients of three selected disease areas (namely stroke rehabilitation care, acute low back pain care and cancer palliative care) with ICWM treatment during in-patient stay and follow-up Chinese medicine out-patient service. The Phase II of the ICWM Pilot Programme was launched on 21 December 2015 and has expanded to other four public hospitals (namely the Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin Hospital, Kwong Wah Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital) to provide in-patients of the same three selected disease areas with ICWM treatment. For details of the ICWM Pilot Programme, please refer to the paper submitted by the Government to the Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Development of Chinese Medicine of the Legislative Council Panel on Health Services on 9 June 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(2)1616/14-15(01)).

On-the-job Training and Development under the ICWM Pilot Programme

14. To ensure that the frontline staff involved in the clinical programmes are equipped with adequate professional knowledge on ICWM practice, the HA has been organising briefing sessions/providing on-the-job training for them. Tailor-made protocol-based briefing sessions on Chinese medicine diagnosis and treatment plans were delivered by the HA from July to September 2014 and from October to December 2015 for hospital clinical staff participating in the Phases I and II of the ICWM Pilot Programme respectively. To ensure smooth operation, operational guidelines and procedures were deliberated and demonstrated in workshops for relevant parties at the hospitals and CMCTRs involved.

15. Ward visits and rounds were arranged by the hospitals involved for registered CMPs participating in the ICWM Pilot Programme before its

commencement to help them better understand the ward operations and Western medicine treatment for relevant disease areas. A mechanism has also been established in the hospitals to facilitate the conduct of ward rounds and case discussions on a regular basis, with a viewing to fostering clinical exchanges and mutual learning among Chinese and Western medicine healthcare professionals.

16. Besides, the HA will develop advanced Chinese medicine training courses for nurses, pharmacists, medical staff and allied health professionals. These training courses will be open to all HA staff while priority will be accorded to frontline personnel participating in the ICWM Pilot Programme. Nursing staff members participated in the ICWM Pilot Programme are encouraged to enroll in the advanced training course in Chinese medicine nursing care launched in March 2015. The HA is also planning to introduce a training course in Chinese medicine for pharmacists in the first quarter of 2016.

Professional Specialisation of Chinese Medicine Practitioners

17. The Government has all along been committed to promoting the development of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong. The Chief Executive has established the CMDC in February 2013 to focus on the study of four major areas, namely the development of Chinese medicine services, personnel training and professional development, development of scientific research and development of the Chinese medicine industry (including Chinese medicine testing).

18. To tie in with the development of the Chinese medicine hospital and enhance the level of Chinese medicine services, the Government has started to explore with the CMDC on the way forward of the development of Chinese medicine specialisation. The Chinese Medicine Practice Sub-committee under the CMDC has started discussing the development of Chinese medicine specialisation. The Sub-committee has made reference to the specialist training and registration of medical practitioners in Hong Kong as well as the development of Chinese medicine specialisation in other areas, and taken heed of the concerns and views expressed by representatives of the industry at the meetings. Generally speaking, apart from making reference to the development of specialist registration of local medical practitioners, we need to consider various factors including the unique theories and modes of practice in Chinese medicine, the manpower and basic facilities available for the provision of Chinese medicine services, the consensus reached among the industry, the

resources required and public acceptability so that we can have a comprehensive discussion.

19. The Chinese Medicine Practice Sub-committee noted that in recent years, the Chinese medicine industry and academia in Hong Kong have been actively examining the possibility of the development of Chinese medicine specialisation. Over the past few years, the Schools of Chinese Medicine of local universities organised forums to explore the development directions of specialisation, raise industry awareness and stimulate discussion about whether a specialist training or specialist qualification accreditation system for CMPs should be established in Hong Kong. In July 2014, the Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Specialty Development Working Group (“Working Group”) was jointly established by the industry and the Schools of Chinese Medicine of three universities to consolidate the Chinese medicine industry and academia to promote the development of Chinese medicine specialisation. The Working Group aims at drawing up a Chinese medicine specialty structure as well as a Chinese medicine specialty training and qualification accreditation mechanism widely recognised by the industry, and making feasible recommendations to the Government. Three sub-groups were set up under the Working Group, namely Acupuncture Sub-group, Chinese Medicine Orthopaedics and Traumatology Sub-group, and Internal Medicine Sub-group, to examine the specialty training content and assessment criteria according to their ambits. The Chinese Medicine Practice Sub-committee will continue to study the issue and maintain communication with the industry, and will make recommendations to the Government in due course.

20. A Steering Committee on Strategic Review on Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development was established by the Government in 2012 to conduct a strategic review on healthcare manpower planning and professional development. The review covers 13 healthcare professions regulated by statute, including CMPs.

Advice Sought

21. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Food and Health Bureau
Department of Health
Hospital Authority
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中醫組認可的「提供進修項目機構」名單
List of CME Programme Providers accredited by the
Chinese Medicine Practitioners Board

編號 Code	機構名稱 Name of CME Programme Providers
CME-PP0001	新華中醫中藥促進會有限公司 Sin-Hua Herbalists' and Herb Dealers' Promotion Society Limited
CME-PP0002	香港中醫師公會有限公司香港中醫藥研究院 The Chinese Medical Research Institute of HKCHA, Hong Kong Chinese Herbalists Association Limited
CME-PP0003	現代中醫進修學院 Modern Institute of Chinese Medicine
CME-PP0004	香港中醫學會教育研究基金會有限公司 Hong Kong Traditional Chinese Medicine Education and Research Foundation Limited
CME-PP0006	中國醫藥學會有限公司 Society of Practitioners of Chinese Herbal Medicine Limited
CME-PP0007	香港註冊中醫學會有限公司 Hong Kong Registered Chinese Medicine Practitioners Association Limited
CME-PP0008	中國中醫推拿針灸院 College of Traditional Chinese Medicine
CME-PP0009	佛教華夏中醫學院有限公司 Buddhist Vassar Chinese Medical College Limited
CME-PP0010	香港華夏醫藥學會 Hong Kong Wah Ha Medicine Association
CME-PP0011	九龍中醫師公會有限公司 The Kowloon Chinese Herbalists Association Limited
CME-PP0012	香港大學中醫藥學院 School of Chinese Medicine, The University of Hong Kong
CME-PP0014	國際中醫中藥總會有限公司 International General Chinese Herbalists and Medicine Professionals Association Limited
CME-PP0016	香港中醫骨傷學會有限公司 The Hong Kong T.C.M. Orthopaedic & Traumatic Association Limited
CME-PP0017	香港針灸學會 Hong Kong Acupuncture and Moxibustion Association
CME-PP0018	香港中文大學中醫學院 School of Chinese Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
CME-PP0019	名醫名方研究會有限公司 Society for Research on Traditional Chinese Medicine Limited

CME-PP0020	港九中醫師公會有限公司 Association of Hong Kong & Kowloon Practitioners of Chinese Medicine Ltd
CME-PP0021	僑港中醫師公會有限公司 Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Practitioners Association Limited
CME-PP0022	華夏書院 Wah Har College
CME-PP0023	香港中文大學專業進修學院 School of Continuing and Professional Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
CME-PP0024	香港浸會大學中醫藥學院 School of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong Baptist University
CME-PP0025	香港中文大學中醫中藥研究所 Institute of Chinese Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
CME-PP0026	港九中華藥業商會有限公司 Hong Kong & Kowloon Chinese Medicine Merchants Association Limited
CME-PP0027	香港中醫藥科技學院 Hong Kong Academy of Chinese Medicine
CME-PP0029	香港中西醫結合醫學會 Hong Kong Association for Integration of Chinese-Western Medicine
CME-PP0030	香港大學專業進修學院 HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education
CME-PP0031#	醫院管理局 Hospital Authority

#代碼編號 CME-PP0031 的機構的認可生效日期為 2012 年 4 月 12 日。
(註：代碼編號 CME-PP0015 的機構已於 2009 年從名單內刪除；代碼編號 CME-PP0005、CME-PP0013 及 CME-PP0028 的機構於 2010 年 12 月 2 日起從名單內刪除。)

#The effective date for the institute with code CME-PP0031 being an accredited programme provider was 12 April 2012.

(Note: The institute with code CME-PP0015 had been removed from the list since 2009.

The institutes with codes CME-PP0005, CME-PP0013 and CME-PP0028 had been removed from the list since 2 December 2010.)