

Information Paper
Legislative Council
Panel on Health Services
Meeting on 14 December 1998

Chiropractors Registration Ordinance (Cap. 428)

Purpose

This paper seeks to inform members of the progress on the preparation of the subsidiary legislation under the Chiropractors Registration Ordinance (Cap. 428).

Subsidiary legislation to be made

2. It is scheduled that the following two pieces of subsidiary legislation will be made:-
 - (a) Chiropractors (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Rules (the Rules); and
 - (b) the Chiropractors Registration (Fees) Regulation (the Fees Regulation).
3. The Rules provide for the detailed arrangements for the registration of and disciplinary procedure for chiropractors. The Fees Regulation prescribes the fees payable under the Chiropractors Registration Ordinance (the Ordinance).

Background

4. Chiropractors are persons trained and qualified in the practice of chiropractic including the practice of the prevention, diagnosis and

treatment of functional disorders of the human body through manipulation of the joints, particularly of the vertebral column and peripheral joints including the pelvis.

5. The Ordinance was enacted in February 1993. It provides for the registration and discipline of chiropractors. Section 3(1) of the Ordinance establishes a Chiropractors Council to administer the registration and discipline of chiropractors. The Chiropractors Council was subsequently established on 1 August 1993. Since then, the Council has been working out the details for the registration and discipline of the profession.

Progress Report

Chiropractors (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Rules

6. The Administration has been working closely with the Chiropractors Council in preparing the Rules, which are necessary for completing the legislative scheme for the registration and discipline of chiropractors.

7. A number of drafts of the Rules have been prepared. There are still a few outstanding issues to be resolved before the Rules may be considered and made by the Chiropractors Council. It is essential that the Rules should achieve the Chiropractors Council's intended purposes and be consistent with the Chiropractors Registration Ordinance so that the Rules can be implemented smoothly and with sound legal backing.

8. It is proposed that the Rules will be divided into the following parts:-

Part I	Commencement and definitions
Part II	Qualifications for registration and the procedures for handling applications for registration and practising certificates
Part III	Duties and powers of the Preliminary Investigation Committee
Parts IV - VI	Duties and powers of the Inquiry Committee, the proceedings of inquiry and documentation in relation to proceedings before an inquiry
Part VII	Duties of the Legal Advisor
Part VIII	Service of documents

Chiropractors Registration (Fees) Regulation

9. It is the Government's policy that fees should in general be set at a level sufficient to recover the full cost of providing the services. The fees to be charged in relation to the registration of chiropractors will be prepared based on a method of calculation agreed by the Chiropractors Council and the Administration.

The Way Forward

10. The Law Draftsman is finalising the draft Rules. Subject to further scrutiny, the draft Rules will be submitted to the members of the Chiropractors Council for consideration. After the Chiropractors Council makes the Rules, we shall seek approval of the Fees Regulation.

Health and Welfare Bureau

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