

**Legislative Council Panel on Health Services**

**Revision of Government Fees and Charges**  
**Relating to Health Care Professionals and Institutions**

**Introduction**

This paper seeks Members' views on the proposed revision of Government fees and charges related to the regulation of health care professionals and institutions.

**Background**

2. Most Government fees and charges have been frozen since February 1998. Earlier this year, the Administration proposed to revise various fees and charges that would only affect a small number of people and some specialist businesses. At the House Committee meeting held on 14 April 2000, Members agreed that the Administration should consult relevant Legislative Council Panels on whether and, if so, how fees and charges under their respective purview should be increased.

**General Guidelines**

3. In general, we propose to revise various fees and charges with reference to their existing cost recovery rates, as follows :-

- (a) Fees with existing cost recovery rate of less than 40% -  
We propose to increase these fees by 20% this year and aim at achieving full-cost recovery within seven years;
- (b) Fees with existing cost recovery rate of between 40% and 70% -  
We propose to increase these fees by 15% this year and aim at achieving full-cost recovery within three to seven years; and
- (c) Fees with existing cost recovery rate of over 70% -  
We propose to increase these fees by 10% or lower this year and aim at achieving full-cost recovery within one to three years.

## **Fees Related to Health Care Professionals**

4. The existing and proposed fees for items relating to the registration of dentists, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, supplementary medical professionals and medical practitioners are set out at **Annexes A-F**. In accordance with the general guidelines, we propose to increase the existing fees by 10% to 20%, depending on the current cost recovery level of individual items. Where the existing fee is already near full cost recovery level, the rate of increase may be less than 10%. On the other hand, we propose to reduce the fee for issue of annual practising certificate for registered pharmacists from \$585 to \$520 to reflect the decrease in operating costs resulting from higher productivity of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board.

## **Licensing Examination of the Medical Council of Hong Kong**

5. The existing cost recovery rates for the fees of the Licensing Examination for medical practitioners are very low, ranging from 12.4% to 37.8%. While on this occasion we propose to increase the examination fees in accordance with the general guidelines (i.e. 20% of the existing levels), Members will appreciate that, at this rate of increase, it would take an exceptionally long time to achieve full cost recovery. A greater magnitude of increase may be necessary in subsequent years.

## **Fees Related to Hospitals, Maternity Homes and Nursing Homes**

6. The existing registration fees for private hospitals, maternity homes and nursing homes and their corresponding costs at 2000-01 levels are set out at **Annex G**. The existing fees are based on a costing exercise conducted in 1994-95. The cost recovery rates of these fees are extremely low, ranging from 3.4% to 32.4%, because, in order to protect public health and in response to rising public expectations, the Department of Health has stepped up efforts in monitoring the institutions concerned in recent years. The increase in costs reflects the increase in resources spent on inspecting these institutions.

7. In view of the low cost recovery levels, we think there is a case to deviate from the general guidelines in paragraph 3 above and introduce a higher percentage increase, say, to recover 15% (annual registration) to 35% (first registration) of costs for fees relating to hospitals, maternity homes and nursing homes. We have shown at **Annex G** the revised fees to recover 15%, 35%, 50% and 70% respectively of full costs for Members' consideration. Although the proposed revised fees may represent a substantial increase over the existing fees in percentage terms, the absolute amounts of increase in dollar terms

represent only an insignificant fraction of the total operating costs of the institutions concerned. The proposed increase should therefore have minimal impact on these institutions.

### **Financial Implications**

8. We estimate that this fee revision proposal will generate additional annual revenue of \$1 million.

### **Advice Sought**

9. Members are invited to advise on the proposals in paragraphs 4, 5 and 7 above.

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Health and Welfare Bureau  
June 2000

**Dental Council of Hong Kong**

**Annex A**

Fee items	Existing Fee Level	Cost Recovery Rate			Proposed Fee				Absolute Amount of Increase	
		<40%	40% - 70%	>70%	Existing Recovery Rate	20%	15%	not more than 10%		
	\$	%	%	%	Increase on existing fee	\$	\$	\$	\$	
<b>Dental Council of Hong Kong</b>										
<b>Registration &amp; Practising Certificate</b>										
1	Registration	1,720	-	-	84%	-	-	1,890	170	
2	Re-registration	1,500	-	-	80%	-	-	1,650	150	
3	Certificate of standing	430	-	-	81%	-	-	475	45	
4	Alteration to the Register	560	-	-	80%	-	-	615	55	
5	Certificate verifying registration	430	-	-	81%	-	-	475	45	
6	Certified copy of an entry in the Register	430	-	-	81%	-	-	475	45	
7	Certified copy of certificate of registration	480	-	-	80%	-	-	530	50	
8	Duplicate certificate of registration	480	-	-	80%	-	-	530	50	
9	Practising certificate -									
	(a) for a dentist whose name is on the register for dentists resident in HK	420	-	-	81%	-	-	460	40	
	(b) for a dentist whose name is on the register for dentists resident outside HK	250	-	48%	-	-	290	-	40	
	(c) for a person deemed to a registered dentist under S.30(3)a	420	-	-	81%	-	-	460	40	
10	Enrolment fee for a Dental Hygienist	1,500	-	-	82%	-	-	1,650	150	
<b>Examination</b>										
11	Entrance fee for examination, in each part	3,820	-	46%	-	-	4,395	-	575	

**Nursing Council of Hong Kong**

**Annex B**

Fee items	Existing Fee Level	Cost Recovery Rate			Proposed Fee				Absolute Amount of Increase					
		<40%	40% - 70%	>70%	Existing Recovery Rate	20%	15%	not more than 10%						
	\$	%	%	%	Increase on existing fee	\$	\$	\$	\$					
<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Existing Recovery Rate</td> <td>&lt;40%</td> <td>40% - 70%</td> <td>&gt;70%</td> </tr> </table>											Existing Recovery Rate	<40%	40% - 70%	>70%
Existing Recovery Rate	<40%	40% - 70%	>70%											
<b><u>Nursing Council of Hong Kong</u></b>														
<b>Registration &amp; Practising Certificate</b>														
1 For registration in any part of the register:														
- Persons qualified in HK	325	-	-	87%	-	-	360	35						
- Persons qualified elsewhere	975	-	-	94%	-	-	1,035	60						
2 For enrolment in any part of the roll:														
- Persons qualified in HK	325	-	-	87%	-	-	360	35						
- Persons qualified elsewhere	940	-	-	91%	-	-	1,035	95						
3 Practising Certificate (valid for 3 years) -														
- Registered Nurse	180	-	-	86%	-	-	200	20						
- Enrolled Nurse	180	-	-	86%	-	-	200	20						
4 Certified copy of certificate of registration or practising certificate	165	-	-	93%	-	-	175	10						
5 Certified copy of certificate of enrolment or practising certificate	165	-	-	93%	-	-	175	10						
6 Restoration of name to any part of register	225	-	-	92%	-	-	245	20						
7 Restoration of name to any part of roll	225	-	-	92%	-	-	245	20						
8 Certificate verifying registration	165	-	-	95%	-	-	170	5						
9 Certificate verifying enrolment	165	-	-	95%	-	-	170	5						

**Nursing Council of Hong Kong**

**Annex B**

Fee items	Existing Fee Level	Cost Recovery Rate			Proposed Fee				Absolute Amount of Increase					
		<40%	40% - 70%	>70%	Existing Recovery Rate	20%	15%	not more than 10%						
	\$	%	%	%	Increase on existing fee	\$	\$	\$	\$					
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<b>Examination</b>														
10 Entrance fees for any registration examination/re-examination	565	-	-	83%	-	-	620	55						
11 Entrance fees for any enrolment examination/re-examination	605	-	-	87%	-	-	665	60						

**Midwives Council of Hong Kong**

**Annex C**

Fee items	Existing Fee Level	Cost Recovery Rate			Proposed Fee				Absolute Amount of Increase	
		<40%	40% - 70%	>70%	Existing Recovery Rate	20%	15%	not more than 10%		
	\$	%	%	%	Increase on existing fee	\$	\$	\$	\$	
<b>Midwives Council of Hong Kong</b>										
<b>Registration &amp; Practising Certificate</b>										
1	First registration									
	- midwives trained in HK	300	-	-	97%	-	-	305	5	
	- midwives trained outside HK	940	-	-	94%	-	-	1,000	60	
2	Re-registration	140	-	-	97%	-	-	145	5	
3	Certified copy of certificate of registration	175	-	-	94%	-	-	185	10	
4	Practising Certificate (valid for 3 years)	220	-	-	98%	-	-	225	5	
<b>Examination</b>										
5	Entrance fees for examination	1,310	-	-	92%	-	-	1,425	115	

**Pharmacy and Poisons Board**

**Annex D**

Fee items	Existing Fee Level	Cost Recovery Rate			Proposed Fee				Absolute Amount of Increase					
		<40%	40% - 70%	>70%	Existing Recovery Rate	20%	15%	not more than 10%						
	\$	%	%	%	Increase on existing fee	\$	\$	\$	\$					
<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Existing Recovery Rate</td> <td>&lt;40%</td> <td>40% - 70%</td> <td>&gt;70%</td> </tr> </table>											Existing Recovery Rate	<40%	40% - 70%	>70%
Existing Recovery Rate	<40%	40% - 70%	>70%											
<b>Registration &amp; Practising Certificate</b>														
1 Issue of a certificate of registration as a pharmacist	775	-	-	98%	-	-	790	15						
2 Issue of a duplicate certificate of registration as a pharmacist	395	-	-	100%	-	-	395	-						
3 Issue of annual practising certificate for a registered pharmacist	585	-	-	112%	-	-	520	-65						
4 Issue of certificate of good standing	395	-	-	95%	-	-	415	20						
<b>Examination</b>														
5 Entrance fees for examination	1,090	-	-	98%	-	-	1,110	20						



**Supplementary Medical Professions Council**

**Annex E**

Fee items	Existing Fee Level	Cost Recovery Rate			Proposed Fee				Absolute Amount of Increase
		<40%	40% - 70%	>70%	Existing Recovery Rate	<40%	40% - 70%	>70%	
	\$	%	%	%	Increase on existing fee	20%	15%	not more than 10%	\$
						\$	\$	\$	
<b>Supplementary Medical Professions Council</b>									
<b>Registration &amp; Practising Certificate</b>									
1 Any alteration to the registration under S.10(2)	365	-	-	87%	-	-	-	400	35
2 Restoration to the register under S.10(5)	465	-	-	86%	-	-	-	510	45
3 Registration under S.13	1,115	-	-	97%	-	-	-	1,155	40
4 Certified copy of a certificate of registration under S.14(3)	245	-	-	88%	-	-	-	270	25
5 Duplicate certificate of registration under S.14(7)	285	-	-	87%	-	-	-	315	30
6 Certificate of standing under S.14A	570	-	-	89%	-	-	-	625	55
7 Certificate verifying registration under S.14A	432	-	-	87%	-	-	-	475	43
8 Provisional Registration under S.15	1,075	-	-	99%	-	-	-	1,085	10
9 Practising certificate issued under S.16	390	-	-	98%	-	-	-	395	5
<b>Examination</b>									
10 Entrance fees for examination under S.15A	1,060	36%	-	-	1,270	-	-	-	210

**Medical Council of Hong Kong****Annex F**

Fee items	Existing Fee Level	Cost Recovery Rate			Proposed Fee				Absolute Amount of Increase	
		<40%	40% - 70%	>70%	Existing Recovery Rate	<40%	40% - 70%	>70%		not more than 10%
	\$	%	%	%	Increase on existing fee	20%	15%		\$	
<b>Medical Council of Hong Kong</b>										
<b>Registration &amp; Practising Certificate</b>										
1 Registration in Part I of the General Register	835	-	52%	-	-	960	-	-	125	
2 Registration in Part II of the General Register (for medical intern)	250	-	43%	-	-	290	-	-	40	
3 Registration in Part III of the General Register (for limited registration)	835	-	42%	-	-	960	-	-	125	
4 Inclusion of name in the Specialist Register	835	-	52%	-	-	960	-	-	125	
5 Restoration to the General Register or the Specialist Register	500	34%	-	-	600	-	-	-	100	
6 Certificate of good standing	335	-	-	75%	-	-	370	-	35	
7 Certificate verifying registration in the General Register or inclusion of name in the Specialist Register	250	-	56%	-	-	290	-	-	40	
8 Alteration to the General or Specialist Register	250	38%	-	-	300	-	-	-	50	
9 Certified copy of an entry in the General or Specialist Register	335	-	57%	-	-	385	-	-	50	

**Medical Council of Hong Kong**

**Annex F**

Fee items	Existing Fee Level	Cost Recovery Rate			Proposed Fee				Absolute Amount of Increase
		<40%	40% - 70%	>70%	Existing Recovery Rate	<40%	40% - 70%	>70%	
	\$	%	%	%	Increase on existing fee	20%	15%	not more than 10%	\$
						\$	\$	\$	
<b>Medical Council of Hong Kong</b>									
10 Practising certificate -									
(a) for a medical practitioner registered under s14 of the Ord. in the General Register	420	-	-	100%	-	-	420	-	-
(b) for a medical practitioner registered with limited registration under s14A of the Ord.	420	-	-	100%	-	-	420	-	-
(c) for a medical practitioner registered with temporary registration under s14B of the Ord.	250	-	-	84%	-	-	275	25	25
11 Retention certificate under s19A of the Ord.	250	-	61%	-	-	290	-	-	40
<b>Examination</b>									
12 Application for sitting the Examination under Sec 7A(1)(a) of the Ordinance	1,000	36%	-	-	1,200	-	-	-	200
13 Licensing examination fees -									
(a) Examination in Professional Knowledge	1,670	34%	-	-	2,005	-	-	-	335
(b) Proficiency Test in Medical English	670	15%	-	-	805	-	-	-	135
(c) Clinical Examination	1,340	14%	-	-	1,610	-	-	-	270
(d) any one discipline in Clinical Examination	500	14%	-	-	600	-	-	-	100
14 Certified copy of record of training received during the period of assessment under Section 10A of the Ordinance	250	17%	-	-	300	-	-	-	50

**Registration of Hospitals, Maternity Homes and Nursing Homes**

**Annex G**

Fee items	Existing Fee Level	2000-01 Full Cost	Cost Recovery Rate			Reference Fee Levels			
			<40%	40% - 70%	>70%	Percentage of Unit Cost			
	\$	\$	%	%		15%	35%	50%	70%
						\$	\$	\$	\$
<b><u>Registration of Hospitals, Maternity Homes and Nursing Homes</u></b>									
1 First registration									
- Hospital	6,815	51,669	13%	-	-	18,084	25,835	36,168	
- Nursing Home/Maternity Home	6,815	21,043	32%	-	-	7,365	10,522	14,730	
2 Annual registration									
- Hospital	900	26,212	3%	-	-	3,932	9,174	13,106	18,348
- Nursing Home/Maternity Home	900	10,899	8%	-	-	1,635	3,815	5,450	7,629