

**Legislative Council
Panel on Health Services**

Implementation of Chinese Medicine Ordinance

Purpose

The Chinese Medicine Ordinance was enacted in July 1999. This paper reports on the progress of introducing various statutory control measures to regulate Chinese medicine practitioners and Chinese medicines.

Background

2. The Chinese Medicine Ordinance provides a framework for the registration of Chinese medicine practitioners, licensing of trading in Chinese medicines and registration of proprietary Chinese medicines. There are also provisions in the Ordinance for the establishment of a statutory Chinese Medicine Council of Hong Kong to implement the above statutory control measures.

Progress

3. The Chinese Medicine Council was established in September 1999 with Dr Tse Chi-wai, Vice-Chancellor of Baptist University, as its first Chairman. Members of the Council and its Boards and Committees are mainly drawn from different Chinese medicine sectors, but include also representatives from the Administration and other sectors of the community to ensure that public views are fully reflected.

4. The immediate task of the Chinese Medicine Council is to make subsidiary legislation for the registration of Chinese medicine practitioners. The Administration is assisting the Council in the preparation of the relevant regulations with a view to commencing the registration process in 2000. We hope to submit the regulations to the Legislative Council later this year. Meanwhile, the Chinese Medicine Council is also preparing a code of practice to set down guidelines on professional conduct for the registered Chinese medicine practitioners to observe.

5. Controls on the trading and manufacture of Chinese medicines will be introduced by phases, starting from 2000. We will also encourage/facilitate the development of international standards for Chinese medicine-based products. For example, in April 2000, we shall organise, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, an international conference to discuss the methodologies for research and evaluation of Chinese medicines.

6. Chinese medicine has been widely used in the local community. We will carefully consider the role of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong's health care system, particularly its place in the public sector, in the context of our present review of Hong Kong's health care system.

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