



會 學 醫 港 香  
**The Hong Kong Medical Association**

FOUNDED IN 1925-INCORPORATED IN 1960 AS A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE  
MEMBER OF WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND CONFEDERATION OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS IN ASIA & OCEANIA

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**Submission to Welfare Services Panel  
& Health Services Panel of Legislative Council**

At the Joint Meeting on Monday, 15 May 2006 at 8:30 a.m. in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building to discuss the Dispensing Errors in Old Age Homes

The Hong Kong Medical Association has serious concern about elderly residents in Old Age Homes being dispensed with the wrong medications. Fatal damage to the residents could have resulted.

These errors are not unexpected. When dispensing errors occur in public hospitals with their trained staff and computers, dispensing errors are bound to happen in understaffed and poorly equipped Old Age Homes. There can be no solution unless more resources are secured to hire more registered nurse, dispensers, and pharmacists or unless training programs are available for the current staff to upgrade their dispensing skills.

The Hong Kong Medical Association insists that before financial resources are available, there must be extra manpower to double-check the dispensing procedures. The basic principles of '3 checks and 7 rights' must be followed to minimize accidents from occurring. Staffs in the Old Age Home involved with dispensing should attend courses in dispensing to upgrade their skills. The Hong Kong Medical Association runs a dispensing course in conjunction with the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education and will consider expanding this course to accommodate dispensing staff in Old Age Homes.

In the long run, each Old Age Home should employ its own doctor with training in geriatric medicine to look after the elderly residents. The Hong Kong University has trained over 100 doctors with the Postgraduate Diploma in Community Geriatric who are able to provide this service. The only question is whether resources will be from Government or from the Old Age Homes.

11 May 2006