



會 學 醫 港 香
The Hong Kong Medical Association

FOUNDED IN 1920-INCORPORATED IN 1960 AS A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
MEMBER OF WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND CONFEDERATION OF MEDICAL ASSOCIATIONS IN ASIA & OCEANIA

Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 5th Floor, 15 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong
E-mail: hkma@hkma.org Home Page: <http://www.hkma.org>
Tel. No.: 2527 8285 (6 lines) Fax: (852) 2865 0943

Panel on Health Services
Special meeting on 27 November 2012
Regulation of medical beauty treatments/procedures

The event leading to one death and 3 other severely infected patients after receiving intravenous substances provided by a beauty center is a warning to the society. The situations as we see now are:

1. Non-medical people who have no training whatsoever in diagnosis of diseases and unable to identify complications from treatments are being employed by beauty centers to use high-energy emitting laser machines on people, who do not understand the risks and may not be suitable for such treatment. And as a result, complications arise.
2. People under the disguise of beauty centers are advertising in the media, misleading the citizens by some pseudo-scientific theories, that the procedures they are providing like intravenous injection of processed blood, can enhance health, prevent diseases including malignancies; or even have cosmetic effect.
3. Doctors who are employed by or associated with some beauty centers to perform invasive treatments often do not disclose their identities to their patients. So when complications occur, patients would have difficulty to seek compensation. And the Medical Council cannot take any action because the doctor could not be identified.
4. Corporations employing doctors to perform invasive treatments are currently under no regulation and no registration system is in place.
5. The existing laws, including the Medical Registration Ordinance (Cap. 161); Undesirable Medical Advertisements Ordinance (Cap. 231) and the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (Cap. 362) are inadequate to regulate these beauty centers.

To solve the problems, the Hong Kong Medical Association suggests the followings:

1. To define the term "Medical Treatment" in the law (Cap. 161 S28(2b)), so that only registered medical practitioners or other persons exempted under this Ordinance can perform these defined medical treatment procedures.
2. To require all corporations which provides or claims to provide medical treatments, as defined, to be registered with the Medical Council; with medical directors held legally liable for any misconduct, as well as other liabilities in connection with these corporations.



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3. To amend the Undesirable Medical Advertisements Ordinance and the Trade Descriptions Ordinance to cover these pseudo-scientific, non-evidence based, misleading advertisements.
4. Both the Department of Health and the Customs Department should actively take actions against these advertisements in the media and the websites, and not just act on complaints.
5. To restrict the use of high energy-emitting laser machines on patients only by registered medical practitioners.
6. The Hong Kong Medical Association must stress again that we never asked the government to regulate the beauty/cosmetic industry, as long as they do not provide or advertise to provide "medical treatments".