



HONG KONG PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION LIMITED
香港物理治療學會有限公司

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Views on “Regulations of Medical Beauty Treatments/ Procedures” for the Panel on Health Services: Special Meeting on 27 Nov 2012

The recent incident causing one death and serious sickness of three other patients resulting from high-risk medical procedures from beauty service company and laboratory processing health products for advanced therapies brought in public concern about the regulations of medical beauty treatments/ procedures.

Internationally, it is noted that there is a rising trend in “consuming” medical beauty treatments/ procedures by the public. Thus, there are regulatory measures in overseas jurisdictions and the international trend for safeguarding patient interests. In particular, Hong Kong is a metropolitan city, which also benchmarks with the international trend with raising demand and expectations of the public on the applications and safety issues in the medical beauty treatments/ procedures.

Apart from regulating the treatments and procedures, it is also necessary to regulate the safety, performance and quality of medical device through legislation. Beauty equipment falling within the definition of “medical device” is also suggested to be regulated under the proposed legislation.

Therefore, it is an appropriate timing for discussion with subsequent implementation on the regulation of medical beauty treatments/procedures to protect the public interest. However, the discussion has to be of board base by inclusion of the relevant and interested parties to balance the risks and benefits of various counterparts.

It is well known that physiotherapists contribute to the dermatological treatment and are trained personnel for operating electro-physical agents in the daily practice. A comprehensive curriculum related to electrotherapy, such as ultrasound, light therapy and LASER therapy, is covered in the undergraduate BSc program provided by the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Moreover, under the Cap. 359 Supplementary Medical Professions Ordinance, physiotherapists are required to register with the Physiotherapist Boards Hong Kong under the Supplementary Medical Councils and observe



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requirements on professional conduct with disciplinary control of persons engaged in occupations and professions supplementary to medicine and for purposes connected therewith.

Therefore, physiotherapists are competent in conducting electro-physical agent and have to be exempted from any means of examination or validation process upon the implementation of regulatory control on authorized persons for treating dermatological conditions using electro-physical agents. In addition, the interest and feedback from the physiotherapists have to be solicited through the Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association in the discussion of the regulatory mechanism for medical treatments/ procedures.

Further to this, physiotherapists are well-trained personnel in delivery of electrotherapy and equip with relevant clinical experience. As a result, physiotherapists are eligible instructor / tutor for training of identified personnel in delivery of light therapy, LASER, ultrasound and other electro-physical agents.

In conclusion, it is appropriate to discuss with subsequent implementation on the regulation of medical beauty treatments/procedures to protect the public interest. However, the discussion has to be of board base and involves relevant and interested parties. Moreover, physiotherapists are competent to deliver electrotherapy for dermatological conditions and have to be exempted from any means of examination or validation process. They are also eligible trainers for identified personnel in delivery of light therapy.

Prepared by

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