



**HONG KONG
DOCTORS UNION
香港西醫工會**

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Our Ref.: HKDU/266/2012

26th November 2012

The Chairman
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Sir,

Re: Hong Kong Doctors Union Submission on regulation of medical beauty treatments/procedures

Hong Kong Doctors Union asks the Government to seriously scrutinize and revise her regulations of cosmetic medicine and cosmetic procedures presently popularised in the media, done by doctors or laymen. This becomes most urgent since the recent scandal of DR beauty company incident.

Since 2005 when cosmetic medicine made her appearance in Hong Kong, the business of this industry mushroomed dramatically. This was made possible by the permission to advertise and the contents of these advertisements cover a wide scope of beauty medicine from skin rejuvenation to plastic reconstruction of noses and breasts. This phenomenon in itself benefitted some people as it stimulates the local economy. However due to lack of proper supervision and control it has led to a series of problems, young doctors left Hospital Authority enticed by the ludicrous income offered by the rich merchants entering the scene.

Problems resulted from the above unregulated cosmetic beauty industry includes:

1) Outsiders are governing insiders

Laymen who have little knowledge of the human body and healthcare are in charge and the recent DR incident is a very good example. Instances where medical judgment are called for were brushed aside by lay opinion in authority for profit orientated verdicts, such as the need to lose weight or the indication to sharpen facial features to make the face thinner.

2) Laymen purporting as professionals

Covered by face masks and caps, staff of beauty parlours behaves like professional doctors and customers will not be told who they really are.

The courses run by the Employee Retraining Board such as those teaching medical beautification misled people and should be now scrutinized and considered being scrapped.

3) Dangerous drugs, machinery including X-ray machines

Employee doctors of these clinics are exploited when dangerous drugs are ordered in their names and they are made to sign for accepting the delivered drugs.

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Cont.../P. 2



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P. 2

4) Advertisements

These beauty procedures are often broadly advertised and contains misleading information.

The solutions to these:

- i) Regulate the beauty industry and especially the Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) - Since HMOs are often the lay businessmen who own and run these business they should be properly regulated;
- ii) Clear division between medical procedures and purely cosmetic procedures;
- iii) Ordered equipments and machinery should be signed by registered medical practitioners;
- iv) Regulate existing advertisements.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Ho Oek Ling
Hon. Secretary
Hong Kong Doctors Union

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