



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區政府總部食物及衛生局  
Food and Health Bureau, Government Secretariat  
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region  
The People's Republic of China

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*Our ref.:* FHB/H/23/1  
*Your ref.:* CB2/BC/4/13

*Tel no:* 3509 8918  
*Fax no:* 2810 7851

26 May 2014

Prof Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long  
Chairman  
Bills Committee on Pharmacy and Poisons  
(Amendment) Bill 2014  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Prof LEE,

**Pharmacy and Poisons (Amendment) Bill 2014**

At the meeting of the Bills Committee on the Pharmacy and Poisons (Amendment) Bill 2014 held on 20 May 2014, some deputation bodies have expressed concerns about the long term regulatory framework and professional development of pharmacists in Hong Kong and the need to establish a separate regulatory body from the current Pharmacy and Poisons Board for the registered pharmacists.

As explained at the meeting, the purpose of the proposed legislative amendments is to seek to implement certain recommendations put forth by the Review Committee on Regulation of Pharmaceutical Products in Hong Kong with a view to enhancing Hong Kong's regulatory regime for pharmaceutical products to better protect public health. The proposal does not touch on the regulatory framework governing registered pharmacists.

Patient safety in the use of pharmaceutical products is the primary concern of this amendment bill. That said, we understand the request of some professional bodies to review the present regulatory framework for registered pharmacists and in that connection the role and composition of the Pharmacy and Poisons Board. We note the request of the profession to establish a separate regulatory body and have conveyed the request to the Pharmacists Sub-group under the Steering Committee on Strategic Review on Healthcare Manpower Planning and Professional Development (Steering Committee). The Pharmacists Sub-group will discuss the subject before the end of the year taking into account the results of the consultancy undertaken by the Chinese University of Hong Kong on the long term professional development of healthcare professionals.

We wish to reiterate that the Government would be happy to look at the proposal for a separate regulatory body for registered pharmacists under the Pharmacists Sub-group of the Steering Committee, which has been designated to formulate recommendations on healthcare manpower planning as well as healthcare professional training and development. In this connection, the establishment of a separate regulatory body for registered pharmacists should not be a consideration to delay, nor a condition to endorse, the present legislative proposal to enhance the regulation of pharmaceutical products for patient safety. Please note that the present legislative amendments will not only enhance the regulation of various traders in the supply chain of pharmaceutical products, but also facilitate the development and registration of pharmaceutical products. All these are beneficial to the development of the pharmaceutical industry as a whole as well as the patient groups who can have more choices of pharmaceutical products in good quality. We therefore strongly urge the Bills Committee to proceed to scrutinize the amendment bill and endorse our proposed legislative amendments.

On the definition of Authorized Seller of Poisons (ASP), I would like to assure Members that under the revised definition, a registered pharmacist who is an employee of an ASP and himself/herself not a holder of an ASP registration would not be liable for breaches of the ASP registration conditions.



I hope the above would clarify the issue.

Yours sincerely,



( Miss Janice TSE )  
for Secretary for Food and Health