

**URGENT**

19 July 2014

Secretariat  
Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council of HKSAR  
Legislative Council Complex,  
1 Legislative Council Road, Central.  
Fax: 25371851





Dear Secretariat,

Re: The Draft Hong Kong Code of Marketing and Quality of Formula Milk and Related Products, and Food Products for Infants & Young Children

We are a group of senior paediatricians working in public hospitals and we welcome the Government to introduce the Hong Kong Code of Marketing and Quality of Formula Milk and Related Products, and Food Products for Infants & Young Children (the Code). We consider the Code as an important step to promote breast feeding in Hong Kong. As paediatricians working in public hospitals, we encounter many children suffering from chronic diseases which may be prevented by breast feeding, including type 2 diabetes mellitus and obesity (WHO 10 Facts on Breastfeeding 2014). Recent local study also supported the findings that breast feeding can lessen the burden posed to our health care system, such as reduced risk of asthma and infection (HKU 'Children of 1997' Cohort study 2014).

We agree with the statement from Surgeon General of the USA, "Research indicates that the marketing of substitutes for breast milk has a negative effect on breast feeding practices". (The Surgeon General's Call for Action to Support Breastfeeding 2011) We also observe that there is inappropriate promotion of breast milk substitutes and food for infants and young children in Hong Kong. To protect our future generations from the health problems related to breast milk substitutes, we support the Government to introduce the first Hong Kong Code as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

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<b>Dr. Tse Wing-yee Winnie</b> <b>Queen Elizabeth Hospital.</b>	<b>Dr. Huen Kwai-fun</b> <b>Tseung Kwan O Hospital</b>
 <b>Dr. Tse Kei-chiu Niko</b> <b>Princess Margaret Hospital</b>	<b>Dr. So Lok-yee</b> <b>Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital</b>
<b>Chau Kai-tung Adolphus</b> <b>Queen Mary Hospital</b>	 <b>Dr. Lee Ching-yee</b> <b>Caritas Medical Centre</b>

cc. all members of the Legislative Council

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