



香港執業脊醫協會有限公司

CHIROPRACTIC DOCTORS' ASSOCIATION  
OF HONG KONG LIMITED

[www.cda.org.hk](http://www.cda.org.hk)

G.P.O. Box 2188 Hong Kong

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To: Chairman and members, Panel on Manpower, Legislative Council

Dear Chairman and members,

Review of whether medical certificates issued by chiropractors should be recognised under labour legislation on 18 February 2014

The Chiropractic Doctors' Association of Hong Kong (CDAHK) 香港執業脊醫協會 is the largest professional body of chiropractors in Hong Kong. Our mission is to provide high quality, affordable chiropractic services to the general public in Hong Kong.

We understand that there will be an agenda on the Review of whether medical certificates issued by chiropractors should be recognised under labour legislation on Feb 18, 2014. We are writing to clarify our profession's position and bring up some points of the Thematic Household Survey Report No. 53 that may call for interpretations.

The chiropractic profession in Hong Kong is a growing sector which is increasing in both recognition and reputation amongst the general public. The establishment of the Chiropractors Registration Ordinance has led the way to enable the public to enjoy quality and reliable chiropractic services. The number of registered chiropractors in Hong Kong has more than double between the Thematic Household Surveys from 2005 and 2012, growing from 75 to 180 as of December 2013. Our profession has the manpower to serve a greater sector of the Hong Kong population, and to provide an additional high quality and effective healthcare option for the general public.

The survey in 2012 noted a drop of 0.2% in the utility rate of chiropractic service since the last survey in 2005. It is worth mentioning that a significant contributing factor for this drop is due to the change in legislation in 2008, to recognize the sick leave certificates issued by Chinese medicine practitioners. Since then, patients with skeleto-muscular issues that can be effectively treated by chiropractors were more adapted to seek treatment from Chinese medicine practitioners because it was indeed more convenient to take leave from work to see a Chinese medicine practitioner. Seeing a chiropractor would require the patients to first take time off to see a medical doctor/Chinese medical practitioner to obtain the required sick leave certificate and then to transfer care to a chiropractor, which is time consuming and inconvenient.



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CDAHK has a comprehensive guideline on issuing sick leave certificates for our members. This guideline can serve to standardize the issuance of such certificates in the profession and is readily available for the public for reference in our website.

Furthermore, the chiropractic profession has been actively promoting the profession to the general public. We are working with Baptist University to open a degree program in chiropractic in Hong Kong. There have also been many awards going to our profession to recognize their committed pursuit of healthcare excellence.

We sincerely hope that you will take the time to interpret the data from the Survey, and not to take them as face value as some of them can be misleading. We trust that the panel on manpower will consider the benefit of publicizing the chiropractic profession can bring to all the citizens of Hong Kong.

CDAHK is committed and always open to cooperate with the government to work towards benefiting the general public by making our services more accessible and affordable to the general public.

Sincerely,

香港執業脊醫協會 Chiropractic Doctors' Association of Hong Kong