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27 December 2013

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義務秘書
趙志輝

Dear Prof IP,

HON TREASURER

Dr Quincy S M YUEN

義務司庫
袁兆文

RE: RESCUE Drug Testing Scheme: Public Consultation

IMMEDIATE PAST

PRESIDENT

Dr Gene W W TSOI

當然會董
蔡惠宏

Thank you for your letter dated 6 December 2013 inviting the Hong Kong College of Family Physicians to submit our views and to attend the captioned meeting.

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Illicit drug use and abuse are serious problems. Prolonged psychotropic substance abuse could cause serious and irreversible damage to health. Drug abuse would create heavy long-term burden on society, Therefore, early identification of drug abusers and rendering them assistance was particularly important. The Hong Kong College of Family Physicians therefore supports measures proven to be effective in early identification and treatment of drug abusers. However, current evidence is insufficient to assess the effectiveness of the RESCUE Drug Testing Scheme.

To improve outcomes in identifying those using illicit drugs, there is a need for public and healthcare professionals to be familiar with the early signs and symptoms of drug and substance abuse. A comprehensive health approach involving primary care practitioners can be considered.

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Sincerely,

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