

HONG KONG COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS  
香港內科醫學院

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

29 June 2018

Panel on Health Services,  
Legislative Council,  
The Government of Hong Kong SAR  
(Attention: Chairman and Clerk to the Panel on Health Services)

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Need to have Legislative Regulation for Electronic Cigarettes and other  
New Tobacco Products

On behalf of the Hong Kong College of Physicians, I am writing in support to the Government's legislative proposal to regulate electronic cigarettes ("e-cigarettes") and the other emerging smoking products, including heat-not-burn (HNB) tobacco products in Hong Kong.

Although longer term scientific data have not yet been available for these relatively new products, the World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that the use of such products would still be harmful and be expected to have associations with escalated risk of long-term health problems including respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases and cancers. Misconceptions would likely arise in the general public that these products are relatively harmless, or that they can serve as apparent efficient aids in smoking cessation, despite the absence of scientific evidence. The major worry with the popularity of such products resides in the younger generation, in which these can be considered to be trendy commodities amongst young people. They could also serve as convenient agents in luring people to nicotine addiction and ultimately cigarette smoking, the so-called "gateway effect".

In order to prevent such harmful products from spreading in our population and to compromise the results of the ongoing efforts to discourage cigarette

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smoking, we are in strong support of the Government legislative proposal to regulate e-cigarettes and other new tobacco products in Hong Kong.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Li". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Prof. Philip Kam-tao Li  
President  
Hong Kong College of Physicians