



HONG KONG COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

香港內科醫學院

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

21 February 2019

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Chairman,

Joint Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Regulation of Devices
and Development of Beauty Industry

Dear Chairman,

Joint Subcommittee on Issues Relating to the Regulation of Devices and Development of Beauty Industry

Thank you for your letter dated February 9, 2019 updating the progress on this subject.

Citing the UK Cosmetic Surgery Interspecialty Committee's definition as "Operations and other procedures that revise or change the appearance, colour, texture, structure, or position of bodily features, which most would consider otherwise to be within the broad range of 'normal' for that person.* In order to achieve the objective of these desirable changes in the appearance of the integument (skin) system, devices are developed to sustain targeted and controlled injury to various targets in the skin. The mechanism of these devices are based on basic and operational biomedical researches such as adopting the selective photothermolysis principle in laser treatment of various pigment and vascular lesions of the skin, and other energy based devices for improving the texture of the skin. In order to best use of these devices, training is required to make an accurate assessment involving clinical diagnostic skills and understanding of the principles and mechanism of how these devices work in altering the anatomy of the skin.

The Hong Kong College of Physicians (HKCP) after consulting the Specialty Board in Dermatology and Venereology is of the view that devices which are used to change the appearance of skin by sustaining controlled tissue injury to the skin should be regulated. The practices and devices involved should be regarded as medical procedures as proposed by the "Working Group on Differentiation between



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Medical Procedures and Beauty Services” in 2012/2013 under the steering committee on review of regulation of private healthcare facilities. Besides, the high power energy based devices should also be regulated given their risk of inappropriate application or operation.

Though HKCP is of the view that user control should also be enacted, the current proposed legislation of mandating registration of these devices is a major step forward to better protect the health of the local people. The approach is pragmatic and not excluding future legislation of user requirements of these devices.

Sincerely

Prof. LI Kam-cao, Philip
President
Hong Kong College of Physicians

*Expert Group on the Regulation of Cosmetic Surgery: Report to the Chief Medical Officer. Department of Health, UK Government 28 January 2005

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