

30 June 2021

Bills Committee on Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021

Legislative Council Secretariat

Legislative Council Complex

1 Legislative Council Road

Central

Hong Kong

Members of the Bills Committee,

Submission on the 2021 Amendment Bill to the Medical Registration Ordinance

Dear Legislative Council,

I am concerned about the feasibility of allowing Mainland Chinese Specialists to come to Hong Kong and practice without a licentiate examination.

Most of the people in Hong Kong are unaware of the specialist qualification/registration system in Mainland China, not even the doctors in Hong Kong.

My understanding is there is no uniform specialist registration system in Mainland China. One can say that the mainland Chinese specialists are self-proclaimed. I suspect some Mainland Chinese specialist doctors may not have received full specialist training.

For example, a mainland Chinese medical graduate may be recruited by a Gynecology hospital for antenatal screening for the rest of his career. He may not have enough experience to deliver a baby. He may not have enough experience to perform a hysterectomy. As a result, he may be highly qualified in one subspecialty, but deficient in the rest.

Once the mainland Chinese specialists come to Hong Kong, is there a possibility that they will be assigned to ANY department to fulfill the three-year training period? They may be assigned to a research laboratory in Hong Kong University, the general outpatient department family clinic, or even the Hospital Authority Headquarters, anything but their own specialty, and without handling patients or performing any specialist procedures. Local Hong Kong doctors in training already have much difficulty entering certain specialties due to the scarcity of specialist training posts requiring exit exams offered by the Hospital Authority. I just cannot imagine why suddenly training posts, without licensing exam required, would be available for

outsiders.

The situation in Singapore is different. Singapore can tolerate employing overseas doctors waiving the licentiate exam, because there are no solo private practicing doctors in Singapore. All doctors work in a hospital under a large, responsible medical group. As a result, the mainland Chinese specialist will only have to perform one single subspecialty task that he is highly skilled in. The overseas newcomer will have at least a supervisor overlooking his performance; In Hong Kong, on the other hand, once the mainland Chinese doctors have fulfilled the so-called 3-year training in ANY department, they will be entitled to private solo practice and perform ALL procedures of that specialty they self-proclaimed to be.

If the above concerns are not addressed first, I feel that this Medical Registration Bill will be enacted in a rather hasty manner, and disaster is bound to come. Hopefully the new Medical Registration Committee can disclose how the mainland Chinese doctors' specialist qualification will be validated.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Dr. Jason Ko

MBBS MRCP FHKCP FHKAM FRCP (Edin)

July 1<sup>st</sup> 2021