



THE MEDICAL LICENTiate
SOCIETY OF HONG KONG

香港執照醫生醫學會

The Medical Licentiate Society of Hong Kong Position

Statement on Importing Non-Locally Trained Doctors

18 November 2020

HONG KONG -The Legislative Council has again raised for discussion possible changes to the current mechanism for non-locally trained doctors to practice medicine in Hong Kong. With regards to that topic, the Medical Licentiate Society of Hong Kong (LMCHK Society) believes it is of utmost importance that we retain a high standard of medical practice in Hong Kong.

During the pandemic, we have seen the high quality of care provided by Hong Kong's healthcare workers. Despite thin resources, they have continued to provide world class medical services to the public, and have successfully repelled wave after wave of the virus.

"Doctor shortage" in the public healthcare system has been a recurring hot topic in our city. Actually, "there is no such shortage; characterising the issue as a shortage of doctors is inaccurate and potentially harmful to Hong Kong's high-quality medical system. However, **there is a shortage of nurses, healthcare assistants, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, phlebotomists, patient transporters and clerical staff,**" said Dr Marcus Marcet, President of the Society. "Focusing again on 'importing' foreign doctors is a distraction from the real issues, such the public system's longstanding staff retention problem, growing technology needs, insufficient financial support, constrained infrastructure, and systemic inefficiencies," added Dr Marcet.

As set out in the Medical Registration Ordinance, the Licensing Exam is the approved pathway for non-locally trained doctors to gain full registration in Hong Kong. The exam is a vital component in maintaining the quality of Hong Kong's medical system and its doctors. There are **now over 1,200 of us non-locally trained doctors**. We



THE MEDICAL LICENTiate
SOCIETY OF HONG KONG

香港執照醫生醫學會

encourage non-locally trained doctors to join the same Licentiate process that we did. “Our non-profit organization believes in Hong Kong’s licensing process. We have helped numerous non-locally trained doctors to prepare for the exam and beyond. We look forward to the resumption of the exam as scheduled, starting in March 2021,” affirmed Dr Marcet. The Medical Council cancelled all of the exams in 2020 due to Covid-19.

We believe the only fair and objective assessment in selecting suitable doctors is a Licensing Examination. The high quality of doctors practicing here is solid proof that only the finest candidates are selected to serve Hong Kong. “The exam ensures that wherever in the world a Hong Kong doctor graduated from, the public can rest assured their doctor has earned his or her medical credentials, is well vetted, understands Hong Kong’s healthcare system, and is able to care for their patients,” said Dr Marcet. The Society strongly supports keeping Hong Kong’s exam, and maintaining high professional standards.

Press Enquiries

Ms. Anna Lee

Telephone: (852) 9150 1890

Email: society@lmchk.org

About the Medical Licentiate Society of Hong Kong

The Medical Licentiate Society of Hong Kong (香港執照醫生醫學會) is an independent, non-profit professional body representing licensed non-local medical graduate doctors in Hong Kong. The Society was founded to support said doctors and to engage with the public and other medical professionals both in and out of Hong Kong. Please visit the Society website (lmchk.org) to learn more about the organization’s ongoing efforts in representing the community of non-locally trained doctors licensed in Hong Kong.
