



THE MEDICAL LICENTIATE
SOCIETY OF HONG KONG

香港執照醫生醫學會

Medical Licentiate Society of Hong Kong's response to the latest proposed amendments to the Medical Registration Ordinance

06 September 2021

HONG KONG – The Medical Licentiate Society of Hong Kong has the following response to the latest proposed amendments to the Medical Registration Ordinance announced by the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) on 31 August 2021 and the additional amendments proposed by Legislative Councilors:

1. Our Society is convinced that the Hong Kong Medical Licensing Examination (HKMLE) is the only fair and reliable mechanism in determining a doctor's ability to practise in Hong Kong.
2. The latest amendment would allow non-locally trained doctors who hold "recognised medical qualifications" and Hong Kong Permanent Resident status to take the HKMLE, irrespective of whether they have served an internship in their medical training. Our Society is deeply concerned that the proposed amendment will further reduce internship and training opportunities for the non-locally trained doctors who have sat and passed the HKMLE.
3. Harmony and trust amongst medical professionals is essential, as healthcare relies heavily on teamwork. Hastily allowing potentially large numbers of non-locally trained doctors to practice when their qualifications have not been stringently assessed will undoubtedly negatively affect this trust. Not only will the doctors responsible for supervising them be put under extra stress, but more importantly, the safety of patients could be placed in jeopardy.
4. Our Society represents non-locally trained doctors from many different countries and of different ethnic backgrounds. We believe the right to practise medicine in Hong Kong should continue to be earned through an open and fair licensing examination, instead of arbitrary metrics such as familial ties to a Hong Kong permanent resident. Being a child or spouse of a Hong Kong permanent resident does not in any way mean one is suddenly better suited to safely practise medicine in Hong Kong.



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5. The proposed amendments again ignored the consensus within the profession that the main problem facing the healthcare system in Hong Kong is a lack of investment in infrastructure and support staff – in hospital beds, operating theatres, nurses, physiotherapists, etc. Blindly increasing the number of doctors will not improve the care of, and appropriate treatment of patients.

The proposed amendments will drastically affect the quality of Hong Kong's medical standards, sow discord within the profession, and instil doubt in the public's mind over the competence and qualifications of non-locally trained doctors. The Medical Licentiate Society of Hong Kong reiterates that while we fully welcome and support recruiting non-locally trained doctors, their qualifications must be carefully assessed by the local examination in order to ensure fairness and harmony within the profession, and to ensure the safety of patients.

Press Enquiries

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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.