

The Ethics Committee and the Professional Code and Conduct



6.1 The Ethics Committee is established by the Medical Council under the Medical Registration Ordinance and its functions include:-

- (a) to study and review any case relating to medical ethics or professional conduct, either on its own motion or at the request in writing of not less than 20 registered medical practitioners;
- (b) to advise and make recommendations to the Council on matters about medical ethics and professional conduct generally.

6.2 The membership of the Ethics Committee (as at 31 December 2001) was as follows:-

Professor LEUNG Ping-chung, OBE, JP (Chairman)

Dr CHAN Chok-wan

Dr CHIU Shing-ping, James

Dr David FANG, SBS, JP

Dr KO Wing-man, JP

Dr LAI Cham-fai

Dr LAI Fook-ming, Lawrence

Dr LI Kwok-tung, Donald

Dr YUEN Chung-lau, Natalis, JP

Mr LAM Kan-ming, Mark*

Dr TAO LAI Po-wah, Julia*

* lay persons who are appointed by the Council to hold office for a term of one year.



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6.3 The Professional Code and Conduct (2000 edition) was issued to members of the profession in late January 2001 to replace the version which was issued in 1996. The following new sections had been included in the revised Code:-

- * Patient's privacy and confidentiality
- * Consent
- * Clinical research practice
- * Fees
- * Complementary/alternative treatment modalities
- * Religion
- * Care for the terminally ill
- * Organ transplant and organ donation
- * Pre-natal diagnosis, intrauterine intervention, scientifically assisted reproduction and related technology
- * Serious contagious/infectious diseases

6.4 The Ethics Committee had finalized the Chinese translation of the Professional Code and Conduct (2000 edition) and submitted to the Council for endorsement. The Chinese version of the Code will be published in early 2002 for the guidance of registered medical practitioners.

6.5 To address the concern of some members of the medical profession on whether the absence of a chaperone during an intimate examination and failure to record the result of the examination would amount to professional misconduct, the Ethics Committee had looked into the issues with a view to drawing up guidelines for doctors' guidance. After deliberations, some guidelines were drawn up with reference to a report of the Working Group of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on intimate examination and were promulgated in the Council's newsletter for the guidance of members of the profession.