

Table 1

Statistics on Disciplinary Cases Handled by the Medical Council Complaints Received by the Medical Council

Nature	No. of Cases				
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
1. Conviction in court					
(a) Failure to keep proper record of dangerous drugs	4	2	1	-	3
(b) Others	5	7	6	5	7
2. Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	105	133	120	114	121*
3. Drug-related cases (excluding court convictions)					
(a) Failure to properly label drugs dispensed	7	1	3	8	4
(b) Failure to keep proper record of dangerous drugs	1	-	1	-	-
(c) Prescription of drugs of dependence other than bona-fide treatment	1	4	-	4	1
(d) Abuse of drugs	-	-	-	-	-
(e) Others	-	1	-	-	1
4. Termination of pregnancy	-	-	1	-	-
5. Abuse of professional position to further improper association with patients	-	-	-	-	-
6. Improper, indecent behaviour to patients	2	12	2	3	8
7. Abuse of professional confidence	1	1	-	-	1
8. Advertising/canvassing	29	33	35	25	19
9. Sharing fee & improper financial transaction	-	-	1	-	-
10. Depreciation of other medical practitioner(s)	1	2	2	-	-
11. Misleading, unapproved description & announcement	5	8	9	4	5
12. Issuing misleading, false medical certificates	8	18	26	14	21
13. Improper delegation of medical duties to unregistered persons	3	2	1	1	2
14. Fitness to practise	-	2	-	1	-
15. Miscellaneous	18	19	22	48	43
TOTAL:	190	245	230	227	236

Remarks:

- (i) Of the 236 complaints received in 2001:
 - 32 cases (14%) were inactionable because the complainants failed to provide further information or statutory declaration, or the complaints were anonymous, & etc.
 - 102 cases (43%) were dismissed by the PIC Chairman, the PIC Deputy Chairman and the lay Member as being frivolous or groundless.
 - 35 cases (15%) were referred to the PIC meeting.
 - 67 cases (28%) are pending further information or statutory declaration.
- (ii) For cases referred to the PIC meeting, some of them will be carried forward to the PIC meetings to be held in 2002.
- (iii) The major categories of cases on disregard of professional responsibilities to patients in 2001 include:
 - (1) failure/unsatisfactory result of surgery (22%)
 - (2) failure to properly/timely diagnose illness or to give proper advice (25%)

Table 2

Breakdown on the complaints received in 2001 which were dismissed by the PIC Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the lay Member

Reasons for Dismissal	No. of Cases
(a) Doctors' attitude	11
(b) Commercial dispute	4
(c) Communication problem	3
(d) Complications of treatment	10
(e) Unsatisfactory results of treatment	14
(f) Difference in medical opinion	6
(g) Misdiagnosis	9
(h) No evidence	18
(i) Groundless	27
TOTAL	<u>102</u>

Table 3

Work of the Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC)

Nature	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
(1) Total cases considered by the PIC	44	56	39	58	80*
(2) Total cases referred by the PIC to Medical Council for inquiries	10	7	17	15	18#
(3) Total cases referred by the PIC to Health Committee for hearing	-	-	2	-	-

Remarks:

* The major categories of cases considered by the PIC in 2001 include:

	No. of Cases
(a) Conviction in court	11
(b) Disregard of professional responsibilities to patients	
• inappropriate prescription of drugs	6
• failure to properly/timely diagnose illness	10
• failure to give proper advice/explanation	12
• conducting unnecessary or inappropriate treatment/surgery	3
• others	6
(c) Drug-related cases (excluding court convictions)	
• improper labelling of drugs	6
• failure to keep proper record of dangerous drugs	1
(d) Advertising/canvassing	7
(e) Issuing untrue or misleading medical certificates	7
(f) Misleading, unapproved description and announcement	5
(g) Improper, indecent behaviour to patients	1
(h) Abuse of professional confidence	1
(i) Miscellaneous	4
	80

The major categories of cases referred by the PIC to the Medical Council for inquiry in 2001 include:

	No. of cases
(a) Conviction	
• careless driving	4
• others	6
(b) Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	
• inappropriate prescription of drugs	1
• failure to properly/timely diagnose illness	1
• failure to give proper advice/explanation	2
• others	1
(c) Improper labelling of drugs	2
(d) Issuing untrue or misleading medical certificates	1
	18

(These cases were of minor offences and the Council accepted the PIC's recommendation that no inquiry was to be held.)

(Of these 14 cases, 5 cases* have been heard by the Council in 2001, 1 case has been partly heard and will be continued in 2002, 8 cases will be heard in 2002)

Remarks:

* Two medical practitioners were involved in each of the 2 cases.

Work Statistics of the Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee in the Year of 2001

	Quarter				Total
	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	July - Sept	Oct - Dec	
No. of PIC Meetings	3	3	3	3	12
No. of cases considered	23	26	13	18	80
No. of cases dismissed (%)	19 (82.6%)	17 (65.4%)	11 (84.6%)	14 (77.8%)	61 (76.3%)
No. of cases pending further investigation (%)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (5.5%)	1 (1.2%)
No. of cases referred to inquiry (%)	4 (17.4%)	9 (34.6%)	2 (15.4%)	3 (16.7%)	18 (22.5%)
No. of cases referred to Health Committee (%)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Table 5

Disciplinary Inquiries conducted by the Medical Council in 2001

No. of Cases	Nature	Decision of the Medical Council
7	Disregard of professional responsibilities to patients	1 Removal for 12 months
		1 Removal for 3 months
		1 Reprimand
		1 Warning letter
		2 Not guilty
		1 Partly heard. To be continued in 2002
4	Conviction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● indecent assault ● failure to keep proper record of dangerous drugs ● practise as an unauthorized person in Singapore* ● allowing a clinic to be used in breach of the conditions prescribed in Singapore* 	Removal for 12 months
		Removal for 2 months
		Removal for 6 months
		Reprimand
2	Issue untrue, misleading or improper sick leave certificates	2 Reprimand
1	Dissemination to the public untruthful and inaccurate information	Removal for 1 month
[Summary: 1 case: partly heard 2 cases: not guilty 11 cases: guilty Of these 14 cases, 6 cases were referred for inquiry by the PIC meetings held in 2000]		

Remarks:

* Two medical practitioners were involved.

Table 6

Figures on Appeal Cases

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
No. of Appeals lodged	2	4 (+1*)	-	2	2 (+3*)
No. of Appeal cases carried forward from previous years	-	2	-	-	2
Total No. of Appeal cases in progress in the year	2	7	0	2	7
Result of Appeal Cases concluded in 2001:					
(a) Dismissed by the Court of First Instance/the Court of Appeal			3		
(b) Allowed			-		
(c) Allowed with Substitute Order			-		
(d) Appeal withdrawn			-		
			<u>3</u>		

* "Judicial Review" case at the Court of First Instance/the Court of Appeal.

Table 7

Results of the Licentiate Examination since 1977

Year	Part I			Part II (March)			Part II (May)			Part III			Lic. Issued
	Sat	Passed	%	Sat	Passed	%	Sat	Passed	%	Sat	Passed	%	
1977	1129	171	15	170	145	85				142	112	79	
1978	722	74	10	95	78	82				106	40	38	
1979	422	91	22	106	85	80				138	70	51	106
1980	498	82	16	105	81	77				135	50	37	43
1981	402	51	13	74	64	86				131	82	63	64
1982	464	54	12	64	54	84				102	59	58	54
1983	347	84	24	67	63	94	33	29	88	126	107	85	79
1984	351	127	36	108	82	76	47	30	64	129	73	57	62
1985	479	121	25	98	75	77	44	34	77	167	85	51	106
1986	391	96	25	88	56	64	44	37	84	179	65	36	74
1987	334	45	13	40	31	78	18	7	39	141	42	30	84
1988	225	21	9	25	14	56	12	8	67	83	30	36	64
1989	138	19	14	17	17	100	7	4	57	76	31	41	41
1990	132	45	34	33	27	82	11	5	45	86	26	30	31
1991	190	21	11	25	18	72	5	3	60	68	37	54	29
1992	201	52	26	49	41	84	8	5	63	84	35	42	27
1993	216	28	13	22	15	68	12	8	67	72	25	35	36
1994	197	10	5	12	9	75	4	2	50	54	22	41	35
1995	241	52	22	35	28	80	17	14	82	75	25	33	26
1996	260	13	5	12	10	83	2	1	50	58	22	38	22

Total No. of LMCHK granted : 983

Results of the Licensing Examination since 1996

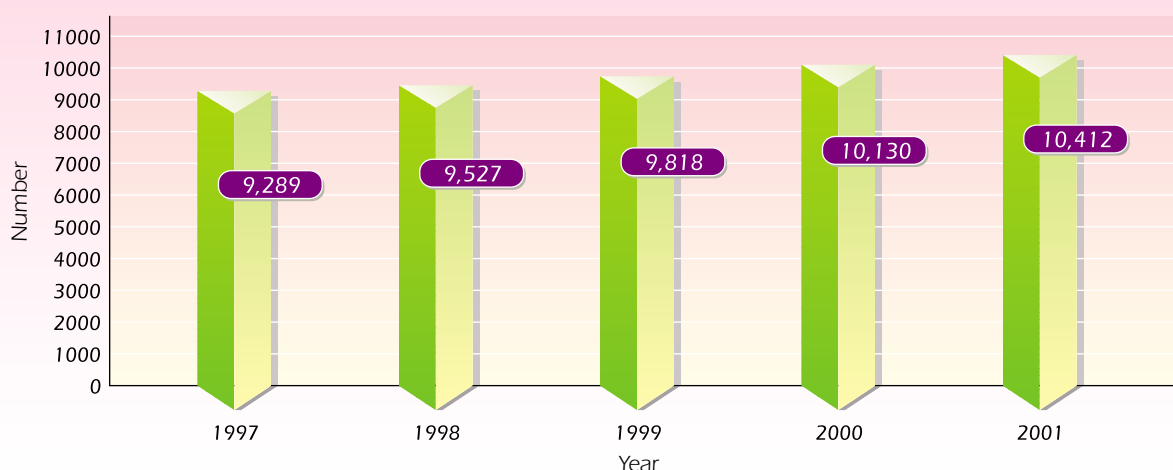
Year	Examination in Professional Knowledge			Proficiency Test in Medical English (March)			Proficiency Test in Medical English (September)			Clinical Examination			Lic. Issued
	Sat	Passed	%	Sat	Passed	%	Sat	Passed	%	Sat	Passed	%	
1996	154	11	7.14	-	-	-	140	88	62.86	40	12	30.00	
1997	178	13	7.30	15	12	80.00	90	48	53.33	27	9	33.33	11
1998	165	43	26.06	7	7	100.00	51	43	84.31	49	17	34.69	6
1999	165	20	12.12	5	4	80.00	57	39	68.42	49	9	18.37	16
2000	132	13	9.85	1	0	0	48	28	58.33	42	10	23.80	10
2001	124	13	10.48	-	-	-	50	37	74.00	35	9	25.71	10

Table 9

Total Number of Practitioners in Part I of the General Register of Hong Kong (Full Registration)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 (as at 31 Dec 2001)
On the Local List	8,147	8,397	8,705	9,021	9,334
On the Overseas List	1,142	1,130	1,113	1,109	1,078
TOTAL	9,289	9,527	9,818	10,130	10,412

Number of registered medical practitioners (Full Registration)



Total Number of Practitioners in Part III of the General Register of Hong Kong (Limited Registration)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 (as at 31 Dec 2001)
Promulgation No. 1	1	-	-	-	-
Promulgation No. 2	74	81	84	79	111
University of Hong Kong					
Chinese University of Hong Kong					
Hospital Authority					
Department of Health					
Promulgation No. 3	132	132	124	118	112
Promulgation No. 4*	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	207	213	208	197	223

* Promulgation No. 4 was gazetted by the Medical Council on 9 November 2001.

Breakdown of fresh registrations, renewal of limited registrations as well as those practitioners' name restored to the General Register

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001 (as at 31 Dec 2001)
Registration in Part II of the Register (Provisional registration for interns)	291	296	321	325	340	361
Registration in Part I of the Register (Full registration)	887	400	401	404	409	404
Registration in Part IV of the Register (Provisional registration for externs) (No longer exists from 1997 onwards)	22	-	-	-	-	-
Registration and renewal in Part III of the Register (Limited registration)	258	240	251	248	227	234
Restoration to the Register	114	104	62	37	40	23
TOTAL	1,572	1,040	1,035	1,014	1,016	1,022

Table 11

Number of registered medical practitioners in the Specialist Register

	No.		No.
1. Anaesthesiology	168	25. Radiology	153
2. Intensive Care	11	26. Clinical Oncology	60
3. Community Medicine	32	27. Nuclear Medicine	7
4. Emergency Medicine	63	28. General Surgery	236
5. Family Medicine	91	29. Urology	67
6. Obstetrics and Gynaecology	292	30. Neurosurgery	31
7. Ophthalmology	114	31. Cardio-thoracic Surgery	16
8. Orthopaedics & Traumatology	165	32. Plastic Surgery	32
9. Otorhinolaryngology	84	33. Paediatric Surgery	19
10. Paediatrics	343	34. Immunology and Allergy	1
11. Pathology	107	35. Infectious Disease	2
12. Internal Medicine	99	36. Medical Oncology	9
13. Cardiology	119	37. Administrative Medicine	0
14. Critical Care Medicine	10	38. Public Health Medicine	0
15. Dermatology and Venereology	57	39. Occupational Medicine	1
16. Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism	34	40. Anatomical Pathology	0
17. Gastroenterology and Hepatology	61	41. Chemical Pathology	0
18. Geriatric Medicine	54	42. Forensic Pathology	0
19. Haematology and Haematological Oncology	20	43. Haematology	0
20. Nephrology	63	44. Immunology	0
21. Neurology	37	45. Clinical Microbiology & Infection	0
22. Respiratory Medicine	69	46. Rehabilitation	0
23. Rheumatology	20	47. Palliative Medicine	0
24. Psychiatry	103	48. Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics	0
		TOTAL	2,850

(Position as at 31 December 2001)