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## Introduction

- 1.1 The Medical Council is empowered under the Medical Registration Ordinance, Cap. 161, Laws of Hong Kong, to handle registration and disciplinary regulation of medical practitioners in Hong Kong. To assist in carrying out these functions, the Council Secretariat, which is staffed by the Department of Health, provides executive and secretarial support to the Council. Apart from conducting policy and committee meetings, the Council had processed, with the support of the Secretariat, for the year 2002:-
- (a) 104 applications to sit for the qualifying examination of medical practitioners;
  - (b) 1,254 applications for registration (including 424 applications for full registration, 238 applications for limited registration, 315 applications for provisional registration, 88 applications for temporary registration and 189 applications for specialist registration);
  - (c) 10,300 renewals of annual practising/retention certificates;
  - (d) 287 disciplinary complaints; and
  - (e) 45,000 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public.
- 1.2 2002 was a very busy year for the Medical Council. This is evident from the statistics contained in this report showing, particularly, a significant increase in the number of complaints. Besides, to sustain the momentum of reform, the Council continued its discussion on the composition and appointment of the Panel of Adjudicators for disciplinary inquiry, mechanism of the Professional Performance Committee (PPC) and means to ensure compliance with mandatory continuing medical education (CME) by registered medical practitioners. The Council has finalized its proposals on the composition and appointment of the Panel of Adjudicators for disciplinary inquiry and mechanism of the Professional Performance Committee, and forwarded them to the Government for consideration. The blueprint for implementing compulsory CME has been worked out and operational details are being fine-tuned. To ensure professional ethics and facilitate experience sharing, guidelines on medical practice/management were issued for the reference of medical practitioners vide the Council's Newsletters.