

6

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 2002) was as follows:-

Professor LEUNG Ping-chung, SBS, 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.



6.3 The Chinese version of the Professional Code and Conduct (2000 edition) was issued in late January 2002 for the guidance of registered medical practitioners

6.4 In 2002, the Ethics Committee had looked into the following issues:-

- Definition of "misconduct in a professional respect"
- Hospital discharge summary
- Use of the prefix "女西醫" by doctors on medicine bags and / or signboards
- Professional indemnity insurance
- Duration of keeping inactive medical records
- Provision of medical records to patients / personal representatives of deceased patients
- Termination of doctor-patient relationship
- Relationship between a doctor engaged by an employer / an insurance company and prospective employee / policy subscriber in a pre-employment / policy subscription medical examination
- Use of the title "XX 科醫生" by non-specialists

Some advice / guidelines in respect of the above issues were drawn up and promulgated in the Medical Council's newsletter for the guidance of members of the profession.



- 6.5 The "Guidelines on the Proper Prescription and Dispensing of Dangerous Drugs by Registered Medical Practitioners" was promulgated by the Medical Council in April 1996 to provide general guidance to doctors for the promotion of good clinical practice. In order to ensure that it is up-to-date and reflects currently accepted professional standards on the use of dangerous drugs in the local context, the Ethics Committee decided to review the said guidelines. Consultation was conducted in April 2002 by inviting views and proposals for amendments from medical institutions/associations, patients' support groups and law enforcement agencies. After taking into account the views and comments solicited and making appropriate revisions, the revised Guidelines was finalized and submitted to the Council for endorsement. The Ethics Committee will start reviewing the Chinese translation of the revised Guidelines.
- 6.6 The Ethics Committee recognizes that there is a need to provide more information of a doctor's services to the public in an open manner and has been deliberating on what and how factual information should be disseminated in order to meet public expectation. The Committee will draw up some recommendations for enhancing service information to be made available to the public and put forth proposals for consideration by the Council after due consultation.