

1 Table

Statistics on Disciplinary Cases Handled by the Medical Council

Complaints Received by the Medical Council

Nature	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
1. Conviction in Court					
(a) Failure to keep proper record of dangerous drugs	1	-	3	1	1
(b) Others	6	5	7	11	14
2. Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	120	114	121	160	166*
3. Drug-related cases (excluding court convictions)					
(a) Failure to properly label drugs dispensed	3	8	4	4	1
(b) Failure to keep proper record of dangerous drugs	1	-	-	-	-
(c) Prescription of drugs of dependence other than bona-fide treatment	-	4	1	2	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	-	-	-	1	-
6. Improper, indecent behaviour to patients	2	3	8	2	8
7. Abuse of professional confidence	-	-	1	1	1
8. Advertising/canvassing	35	25	19	24	68
9. Sharing fee & improper financial transaction	1	-	-	3	2
10. Depreciation of other medical practitioner(s)	2	-	-	3	1
11. Misleading, unapproved description & announcement	9	4	5	6	8
12. Issuing misleading, false medical certificates	26	14	21	23	24
13. Improper delegation of medical duties to unregistered persons	1	1	2	-	2
14. Fitness to practise	-	1	-	-	-
15. Miscellaneous	22	48	43	46	52
Total :	230	227	236	287	350

Remarks:

(i) Of the 350 complaints received in 2003:

- 35 cases (10%) were inactionable because the complainants failed to provide further information or statutory declaration, or the complaints were anonymous, etc.
- 116 cases (33%) were dismissed by the PIC Chairman, the PIC Deputy Chairman and the Lay Member as being frivolous or groundless.
- 107 cases (30%) were referred to the PIC meeting.
- 90 cases (26%) are pending further information or statutory declaration.
- 2 cases (1%) were referred to the Health Committee.

(ii) For cases referred to the PIC meeting, some of them have been carried forward to the PIC meetings to be held in 2004.

(iii) *The major categories of cases on disregard of professional responsibility to patients in 2003 include:

- (1) failure/unsatisfactory result of surgery (21%)
- (2) failure to properly/timely diagnose illness or to give proper advice (28%)

Table 2

Breakdown on the complaints received in 2003 which were dismissed by the PIC Chairman, the PIC Deputy Chairman and the Lay Member

Reasons for Dismissal	No. of Cases
(a) Doctors' attitude	19
(b) Commercial dispute	1
(c) Communication problem	2
(d) Complications of treatment	5
(e) Unsatisfactory results of treatment	22
(f) Difference in medical opinion	5
(g) Misdiagnosis	8
(h) No evidence	28
(i) Groundless	26
TOTAL:	116

3 Table

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

Nature	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
1. Total cases considered by the PIC	39	58	80	76	108*
2. Total cases referred by the PIC to Council for inquiries	17	15	18	14	22#
3. Total cases referred by the PIC to Health Committee for hearing	2	-	-	-	1

Remarks:

* The major categories of cases considered by the PIC in 2003 include:

	No. of cases
(a) Conviction in court	9
(b) Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	
• inappropriate prescription of drugs	6
• failure to properly/timely diagnose illness	15
• failure to give proper advice/explanation	3
• conducting unnecessary or inappropriate treatment/surgery	-
• failure/unsatisfactory result of surgery	4
• others	10
(c) Drug-related cases (excluding court convictions)	
• improper labelling of drugs	4
• others	-
(d) Advertising/canvassing	27
(e) Issuing untrue or misleading medical certificates	8
(f) Misleading, unapproved description & announcement	7
(g) Abuse of professional position to further improper association with patients	1
(h) Sharing fee & improper financial transaction	1
(i) Depreciation of other medical practitioner(s)	1
(j) Miscellaneous	12
Total :	108

#The major categories of cases referred by the PIC to the Medical Council for inquiry in 2003 include:

	No. of cases	
(a) Conviction		
• careless driving	5	(These cases were of minor offences and the Council accepted the PIC'S recommendation that no inquiry was to be held.)
• others	1	
• failure to keep proper record of dangerous drugs	1	
• conspiracy to falsify accounts and attempted fraud	1	
(b) Disregard of professional responsibility to patients		
• failure to properly/timely diagnose illness	3	
• miscellaneous	1	
(c) Improper labelling of drugs	2	(Of these 16 cases, 9 cases have been heard by the Council in 2003.)
(d) Advertising / canvassing	4	
(e) Depreciation of other medical practitioner(s)	1	
(f) Issuing untrue or misleading medical certificates	1	
(g) Miscellaneous	2	
Total :	22	

4 Table

Work Statistics of the Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee in the Year of 2003

	Quarter				Total
	Jan.-Mar.	Apr.-June	July-Sept.	Oct.-Dec.	
No. of PIC Meetings	3	3	3	3	12
No. of cases considered	23	25	29	31	108
No. of cases dismissed (%)	17 (73.9%)	23 (92%)	17 (58.6%)	28 (90.3%)	85 (78.7%)
No. of cases referred to inquiry (%)	6 (26.1%)	2 (8%)	12 (41.4%)	2 (6.5%)	22 (20.3%)
No. of cases referred to Health Committee	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (3.2%)	1 (1.0%)

5 Table



Disciplinary Inquiries conducted by the Medical Council in 2003

No. of Cases	Nature	Decision of the Medical Council
5	Disregard of professional responsibilities to patients	2 Removed for 12 months 1 Removed for 3 months (suspended for 2 years) 1 Reprimand (suspended for 2 years) 1 Warning Letter (not gazetted)
2	Conviction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> failure to keep proper record of dangerous drugs conspiracy to falsify accounts and attempted fraud 	Removed for 3 months Removed for 6 months
3	Labelling of Drugs	1 Removed for 3 months (suspended for 2 years) 2 Removed for 1 month (suspended for 6 months)
1	Issuing misleading, false medical certificates	Warning letter (not gazetted)
1	Advertising / Canvassing	Not guilty
1	Instituting his patient a treatment which was inappropriate to the patient's medical condition	To be continued

(Summary : 1 case : not guilty

11 cases : guilty

1 case : to be continued

Of these 13 cases, 4 cases were referred for inquiry by the PIC meetings held in / before 2002)

6 Table

Figures on Appeal Cases

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
No. of Appeals lodged	-	2	2(+3*)	1	2
No. of Appeal cases carried forward from previous years	-	-	2	4	2
Total No. of Appeal cases in progress in the year	0	2	7	5	4

Result of Appeal Cases concluded in 2003:

(a) Dismissed by the Court of First Instance / Court of Appeal	1
(b) Allowed	1
(c) Appeal withdrawn	1
Total :	3

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

7 Table



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

8 Table



Results of the Licensing Examination since 1996

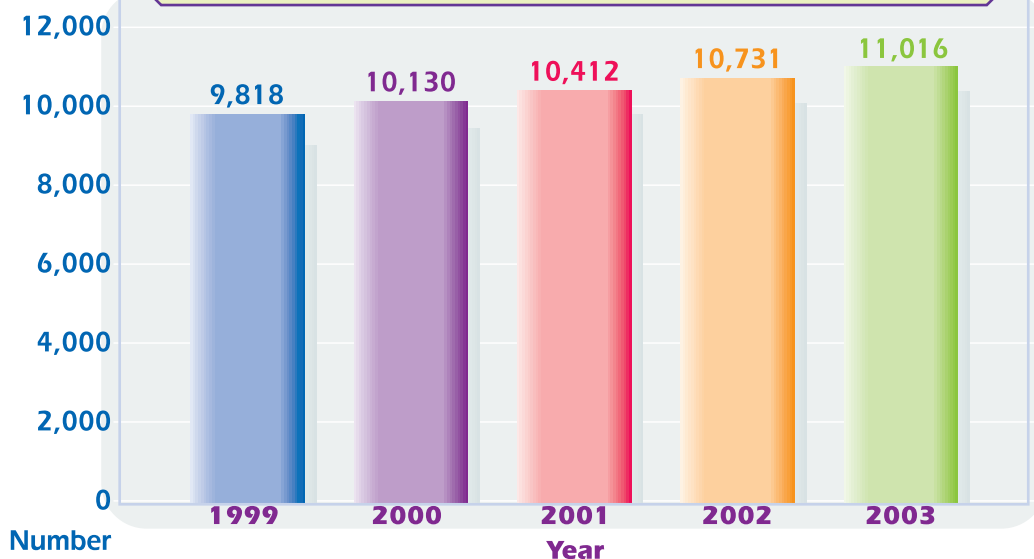
Year	Examination in Professional Knowledge			Proficiency Test in Medical English (March)			Proficiency Test in Medical English (September)			Clinical Examination			Lic. Issued
	Sat	Passed	%	Sat	Passed	%	Sat	Passed	%	Sat	Passed	%	
1996	154	11	7.14	-	-	-	140	88	62.86	40	12	30.00	-
1997	178	13	7.30	15	12	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
2002	104	11	10.58	-	-	-	31	13	41.94	33	13	39.39	7
2003	76	11	14.47	-	-	-	30	26	86.67	27	7	25.93	9

9 Table

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

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 (as at 31 Dec 2003)
On the Local List	8,705	9,021	9,334	9,627	9,905
On the Overseas List	1,113	1,109	1,078	1,104	1,111
TOTAL	9,818	10,130	10,412	10,731	11,016

No. of registered medical practitioners (Full Registration)



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

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 (as at 31 Dec 2003)
Promulgation No. 1	-	-	-	-	-
Promulgation No. 2	84	79	111	107	89
University of Hong Kong					
Chinese University of Hong Kong					
Hospital Authority					
Department of Health					
Promulgation No. 3	124	118	112	92	88
Promulgation No. 4*	-	-	-	16	16
TOTAL	208	197	223	215	193

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

Table 10

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

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 (as at 31 Dec 2003)
Registration in Part II of the Register (Provisional registration for interns)	291	296	321	325	340	361	315	318
Registration in Part I of the Register (Full registration)	887	400	401	404	409	404	424	427
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	238	196
Restoration to the Register	114	104	62	37	40	23	31	21*
TOTAL	1,572	1,040	1,035	1,014	1,016	1,022	1,008	962

* Three applications, from 2 doctors whose names had been removed from the Register after disciplinary proceedings, were refused after inquiry into their conduct following their removal.

Table 11

Number of registered medical practitioners in the Specialist Register

	No.		No.
1. Anaesthesiology	190	27. Nuclear Medicine	14
2. Intensive Care	13	28. General Surgery	274
3. Community Medicine	31	29. Urology	73
4. Emergency Medicine	78	30. Neurosurgery	36
5. Family Medicine	104	31. Cardio-thoracic Surgery	19
6. Obstetrics and Gynaecology	300	32. Plastic Surgery	36
7. Ophthalmology	137	33. Paediatric Surgery	18
8. Orthopaedics & Traumatology	206	34. Immunology and Allergy	3
9. Otorhinolaryngology	94	35. Infectious Disease	5
10. Paediatrics	377	36. Medical Oncology	13
11. Pathology	110	37. Administrative Medicine	1
12. Internal Medicine	98	38. Public Health Medicine	1
13. Cardiology	134	39. Occupational Medicine	5
14. Critical Care Medicine	18	40. Anatomical Pathology	3
15. Dermatology and Venereology	64	41. Chemical Pathology	0
16. Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism	41	42. Forensic Pathology	2
17. Gastroenterology and Hepatology	70	43. Haematology	2
18. Geriatric Medicine	60	44. Immunology	1
19. Haematology and Haematological Oncology	22	45. Clinical Microbiology & Infection	2
20. Nephrology	68	46. Rehabilitation	4
21. Neurology	44	47. Palliative Medicine	1
22. Respiratory Medicine	83	48. Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics	0
23. Rheumatology	22	49. Gynaecological Oncology	0
24. Psychiatry	128	50. Urogynaecology	0
25. Radiology	181	51. Reproductive Medicine	1
26. Clinical Oncology	68	TOTAL	3,255

(Position as at 31 December 2003)