

The Education and Accreditation Committee and Registration of Medical Practitioners

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5.1 The Education and Accreditation Committee (EAC) is established by the Council to perform the following functions:-

- (a) to determine, upon the recommendation of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM), the specialties under which names of registered medical practitioners may be included in the Specialist Register;
- (b) to recommend to the Council, on the recommendation of the HKAM, the qualification, experience and any other attributes that qualify a registered medical practitioner to have his name included in the Specialist Register under a particular specialty;
- (c) to recommend to the Council the procedures, documentations and fees payable for including the name of a registered medical practitioner in the Specialist Register;
- (d) to recommend and review the standard and structure of undergraduate medical education and medical training required for a person to become a registered medical practitioner; and
- (e) to recommend to the Council whether the name of a registered medical practitioner should be included in or removed from the Specialist Register.

5.2 The membership of the EAC (as at 31 December 2004) was as follows:-

Professor TANG Wai-king, Grace, JP (Chairman)

Dr CHAN Fu-luk (from 3 January 2004 onwards. Dr CHAN passed away in August 2004.)

Dr CHOI Kin, Gabriel

Professor COCKRAM, Clive Stewart

Professor Tony GIN

Dr HUNG Chi-tim

Dr KO Tak-him, Patrick

Professor LAM Siu-ling, Karen

Dr LAM Tzit-yuen, David

Professor LAU Wan-ye Joseph (from 1 September 2004 onwards)

Professor Felice LIEH-MAK, CBE, JP

Professor LUK Dip-Kei, Keith

Dr SHIH Tai-cho, Louis

Dr SO Pik-han, Kathleen

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- 5.3 The voluntary 'CME programme for practising doctors who are not taking CME programme for specialists' (the Programme) was implemented with effect from 1 October 2001. Under the Programme, participating doctors who have accumulated 30 or more CME points in a year within the 3-year CME cycle and whose names are not included in the Specialist Register will be awarded a CME Certificate to certify that they have achieved a satisfactory level of CME activity during that particular period. The CME certificate can be displayed inside the doctor's office. Since the implementation of the Programme, the Council has, on the recommendation of the EAC, issued some 3,000 CME Certificates to the participating doctors.
- 5.4 Under the Programme, CME Programme Providers/Administrators/ Accreditors were appointed by the Council for a term of 3 years to provide/accredit CME activities and to keep the CME records of the participating doctors in accordance with the Council's guidelines. The EAC conducted a review on the CME Programme Providers/Administrators/Accreditors in order to assess their suitability for re-appointment upon the expiry of their current terms of appointment. Having regard to the results of the review, the Council had, on the recommendation of the EAC, re-appointed all CME Programme Providers/Administrators/Accreditors, except one CME Programme Provider, for another term of 3 years with effect from 1 January 2005. The EAC would continue its assessment of the suitability of the other CME Programme Provider for re-appointment pending further information from that CME Programme Provider.
- 5.5 The EAC is also responsible for scrutinizing qualifications, upon application, and recommend to the Council whether the qualifications may be quoted on signboards, letterheads and visiting cards, etc. In 2004, the EAC considered 26 qualifications. Of these 26 qualifications, 14 were regarded by the EAC as having met the prevailing vetting criteria and were included in the List of Quotable Qualifications with the endorsement of the Council.
- 5.6 As at 31 December 2004, there were over 11,200 medical practitioners with full registration. This figure included those resident in Hong Kong and those on the non-resident list. **Table 9** shows that there has been an increase in the number of registered medical practitioners from 10,130 in 2000 to 11,242 in 2004 (11%). In addition to the medical practitioners with full registration, there were 196 medical practitioners with limited registration among whom 82 were permitted to work in the exempted clinics.

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- 5.7 Keeping the entries in the General Register and the Specialist Register up-to-date has been a major task for the Council Secretariat. Hundreds of transactions are carried out weekly, including changes of registered address or personal particulars, removal from and restoration to the registers, transfer to and from the resident and non-resident lists respectively, issue of Certificates of Good Standing and Certificates Verifying Registration, etc. In addition, as a public service, the Council Secretariat dealt with over 46,300 general enquiries from members of the profession and the public in 2004.
- 5.8 **Table 10** lists in detail the registration figures in respect of various parts of the General Register, including "provisional" and "limited" registration as well as cases of restoration to the Register from 1996 to 2004. As the figures show, there was a drop in the number of applications for registration in Part I of the General Register since 1997 due to the amendment of the Medical Registration Ordinance in respect of the qualification for registration. Non-local medical graduates, except those recognised under the transitional arrangement, are required to sit for the Licensing Examination.
- 5.9 A medical practitioner whose name has been removed from the General Register, whether as a consequence of disciplinary proceedings or otherwise, may apply to the Council for restoration of his name to the Register. The Council may hold an inquiry to decide whether to grant or refuse the application. **Table 10** shows that in 2004, there were 23 such applications and all except one were approved.
- 5.10 In addition, every year the Council Secretariat has to conduct a large-scale exercise of renewal of practising and retention certificates for all registered medical practitioners. With the increase in the number of registered medical practitioners, the number of annual practising and retention certificates issued has also risen from 9,700 in 2000 to 10,900 in 2004, representing an increase of 12%.
- 5.11 The Specialist Register was established in 1998 to provide for registration of specialist doctors qualified in various specialties. There were 3,461 doctors registered under 51 specialties as at 31 December 2004. The number of specialist doctors registered under each specialty is set out in **Table 11**.