

Table 1

Statistics on Disciplinary Cases Handled by the Medical Council

Complaints Received by the Medical Council

Nature	No. of Cases				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
1. Conviction in Court					
(a) Failure to keep proper record of dangerous drugs	3	1	1	2	3
(b) Others	7	11	14	6	9
2. Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	121	160	166	190	237*
3. Drug-related cases (excluding court convictions)					
(a) Failure to properly label drugs dispensed	4	4	1	2	2
(b) Failure to keep proper record of dangerous drugs	-	-	-	-	1
(c) Prescription of drugs of dependence other than bona-fide treatment	1	2	1	-	1
(d) Abuse of Drugs	-	-	-	-	-
(e) Others	1	-	1	-	-
4. Termination of Pregnancy	-	-	-	-	-
5. Abuse of professional position to further improper association with patients	-	1	-	-	-
6. Improper, indecent behaviour to patients	8	2	8	5	6
7. Abuse of professional confidence	1	1	1	3	4
8. Advertising/canvassing	19	24	68	25	61
9. Sharing fee & improper financial transaction	-	3	2	-	3
10. Depreciation of other medical practitioner(s)	-	3	1	2	1
11. Misleading, unapproved description & announcement	5	6	8	8	6
12. Issuing misleading, false medical certificates	21	23	24	16	25
13. Improper delegation of medical duties to unregistered persons	2	-	2	-	3
14. Fitness to practise	-	-	-	1	-
15. Miscellaneous	43	46	52	51	35
Total :	236	287	350	311	397

Remarks:

- (i) Of the 397 complaints received in 2005:
 - 38 cases (10%) were inactionable because the complainants failed to provide further information or statutory declaration, or the complaints were anonymous, etc.
 - 151 cases (38%) were dismissed by the PIC Chairman and the PIC Deputy Chairman in consultation with the Lay Member as being frivolous or groundless.
 - 67 cases (17%) were referred to the PIC meeting.
 - 141 cases (35%) are pending further information or statutory declaration.
- (ii) For cases referred to the PIC meeting, some of them have been carried forward to the PIC meetings to be held in 2006.
- (iii) * The major categories of cases on disregard of professional responsibility to patients in 2005 include:
 - (1) failure/unsatisfactory result of surgery (8%)
 - (2) failure to properly/timely diagnose illness or to give proper advice (16%)
 - (3) conducting inappropriate treatment or inappropriate prescription of drugs (46%)

Table 2

Breakdown on the complaints received in 2005 which were dismissed by the PIC Chairman and the PIC Deputy Chairman

Reasons for Dismissal	No. of Cases
(a) Doctors' attitude	13
(b) Communication problem	5
(c) Complications of treatment	8
(d) Unsatisfactory results of treatment	33
(e) Difference in medical opinion	16
(f) Misdiagnosis	5
(g) No evidence	4
(h) Groundless	67
TOTAL :	151

Table 3

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

Nature	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
(1) Total cases considered by the PIC	80	76	108	112	123*
(2) Total cases referred by the PIC to Council for inquiries	18	14	22	25	31#
(3) Total cases referred by the PIC to Health Committee for hearing	-	-	1	-	-

Remarks:

*The major categories of cases considered by the PIC in 2005 include:

	No. of cases
(a) Conviction in court	12
(b) Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	
● inappropriate prescription of drugs	13
● failure to properly/timely diagnose illness	17
● failure to give proper advice/explanation	5
● conducting unnecessary or inappropriate treatment/surgery	10
● failure/unsatisfactory result of surgery	8
● others	13
(c) Drug-related cases (excluding court convictions)	
● failure to properly label drugs dispensed	2
● prescription of drugs of dependence other than bona-fide treatment	1
(d) Improper, indecent behaviour to patients	1
(e) Advertising/canvassing	16
(f) Issuing untrue or misleading medical certificates	8
(g) Misleading, unapproved description and announcement	7
(h) Abuse of professional confidence	1
(i) Depreciation of other medical practitioner(s)	1
(j) Miscellaneous	8
	<hr/> 123

#The major categories of cases referred by the PIC to the Medical Council for inquiry in 2005 include:

	No. of cases
(a) Conviction	
● careless driving	4
● others	5
● failure to keep proper record of dangerous drugs	3
(b) Disregard of professional responsibility to patients	
● inappropriate prescription of drugs	3
● failure to properly/timely diagnose illness	3
● failure/unsatisfactory result of surgery	1
(c) Drug-related cases (excluding court convictions)	
● failure to properly label drugs dispensed	1
● prescription of drugs of dependence other than bona-fide treatment	1
(d) Advertising/canvassing	6**
(e) Issuing untrue or misleading medical certificates	3
(f) Miscellaneous	1
	<hr/> 31

(4 cases of careless driving and 2 other conviction cases were of minor offences and the Council accepted the PIC's recommendation that no inquiry was to be held)

*** 1 case was accepted by the Council that no inquiry was to be held.*

(Of the 24 cases referred to the Council for inquiry, 4 cases have been heard by the Council in 2005)

Table 4

Work Statistics of the Council's Preliminary Investigation Committee in the Year of 2005

	Quarter				Total
	Jan.-Mar.	Apr.-June	July-Sept.	Oct.-Dec.	
No. of PIC Meetings	3	3	3	3	12
No. of cases considered	30	37	22	34	123
No. of cases dismissed (%)	24 (80.0%)	28 (75.7%)	14 (63.6%)	26 (76.5%)	92 (74.8%)
No. of cases referred to inquiry (%)	6 (20.0%)	9 (24.3%)	8 (36.4%)	8 (23.5%)	31 (25.2%)
No. of cases referred to Health Committee (%)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Table 5

Disciplinary Inquiries conducted by the Medical Council in 2005

No. of Cases	Nature	Decision of the Council
3	Disregard of professional responsibilities to patients	1 Removed for 3 months 1 Warning Letter (not gazetted) 1 Not guilty
3	Conviction	
	- 2 failure to keep proper record of dangerous drugs	1 Removed for 6 months 1 *Removed for 1 month and Reprimanded
	- 1 deception	Reprimanded
1	Labelling of drugs	Removed for 3 months (suspended for 1 year)
1	Issuing misleading, false medical certificates	Removed for 9 months
7	Practice promotion	2 Warning Letter (gazetted) 1 Warning Letter (not gazetted) 4 To be continued
1	Depreciation of other medical practitioner	Reprimanded
1	Made fraudulent misrepresentations	Not guilty
17	[Summary: 2 cases: not guilty 11 cases: guilty 4 cases: to be continued Of these 17 cases, 13 cases were referred for inquiry by the PIC meetings held in/before 2004]	

* **Note:** Removed for 1 month for one charge and reprimanded for the other two charges.

Table 6

Figures on Appeal Cases

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
No. of Appeals lodged	2(+3*)	1	2	2	1
No. of Appeal cases carried forward from previous years	2	4	2	1	2
Total No. of Appeal cases in progress in the year	7	5	4	3	3

*“Judicial Review” cases at the Court of First Instance/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

Table 8

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
2004	77	7	9.09	*	-	-	20	13	65	21	9	42.86	7
2005	81	11	13.58	*	-	-	29	22	75.86	22	5	22.73	10

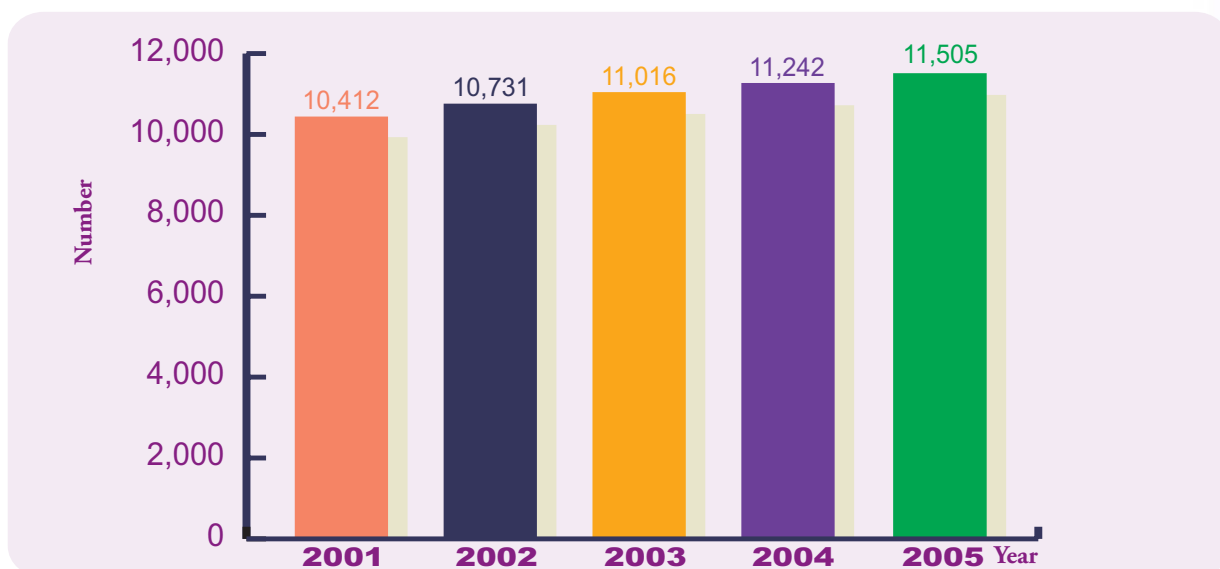
* suspended since March 2001

Table 9

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

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 (as at 31 Dec 2005)
On the Resident List	9,334	9,627	9,905	10,163	10,432
On the Non-resident List	1,078	1,104	1,111	1,079	1,073
Total	10,412	10,731	11,016	11,242	11,505

No. of registered medical practitioners (Full Registration)



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

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 (as at 31 Dec 2005)
Promulgation No. 1	-	-	-	-	-
Promulgation No. 2	111	107	89	96	88
University of Hong Kong					
Chinese University of Hong Kong					
Hospital Authority					
Department of Health					
Promulgation No. 3	112	92	88	82	77
Promulgation No. 4*	-	16	16	18	16
Total	223	215	193	196	181

* 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	2004	2005 (as at 31 Dec 2005)
Registration in Part II of the Register (Provisional registration for interns)	291	296	321	325	340	361	315	318	326	322
Registration in Part I of the Register (Full registration)	887	400	401	404	409	404	424	427	351	327
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	196	207
Restoration to the Register	114	104	62	37	40	23	31	21	23*	31
Total	1,572	1,040	1,035	1,014	1,016	1,022	1,008	962	896	887

* An application from a doctor, whose name had been removed from the Register after disciplinary proceedings, was refused after inquiry into his conduct following his removal.

Table 11

Number of registered medical practitioners in the Specialist Register

(Position as at 31 December 2005)

	No.
1. Anaesthesiology	235
2. Intensive Care	15
3. Community Medicine	32
4. Emergency Medicine	112
5. Family Medicine	118
6. Obstetrics and Gynaecology	313
7. Ophthalmology	159
8. Orthopaedics & Traumatology	248
9. Otorhinolaryngology	106
10. Paediatrics	413
11. Pathology	118
12. Internal Medicine	97
13. Cardiology	145
14. Critical Care Medicine	22
15. Dermatology and Venereology	69
16. Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism	51
17. Gastroenterology and Hepatology	88
18. Geriatric Medicine	67
19. Haematology and Haematological Oncology	24
20. Nephrology	73
21. Neurology	57
22. Respiratory Medicine	95
23. Rheumatology	29
24. Psychiatry	156
25. Radiology	202
26. Clinical Oncology	72
27. Nuclear Medicine	15
28. General Surgery	302
29. Urology	75
30. Neurosurgery	44
31. Cardio-thoracic Surgery	20
32. Plastic Surgery	40
33. Paediatric Surgery	18
34. Immunology and Allergy	3
35. Infectious Disease	10
36. Medical Oncology	16
37. Administrative Medicine	4
38. Public Health Medicine	5
39. Occupational Medicine	7
40. Anatomical Pathology	5
41. Chemical Pathology	2
42. Forensic Pathology	4
43. Haematology	2
44. Immunology	1
45. Clinical Microbiology & Infection	11
46. Rehabilitation	6
47. Palliative Medicine	2
48. Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics	0
49. Gynaecological Oncology	0
50. Urogynaecology	1
51. Reproductive Medicine	4
TOTAL	3,713